THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

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INDIA MAY SHUT KABUL MISSION IF SITUATION WORSENS: SOURCES

India may have to shut its Afghan embassy in Kabul if the situation in the country continues to deteriorate, sources said. Accordingly, India pulled out around 50 diplomats and security staff from its consulate in Kandahar on Sunday in view of the deteriorating situation there, added sources. External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said personnel have been brought back in view of intense fighting | P7

Djokovic's 20th
The equaliser

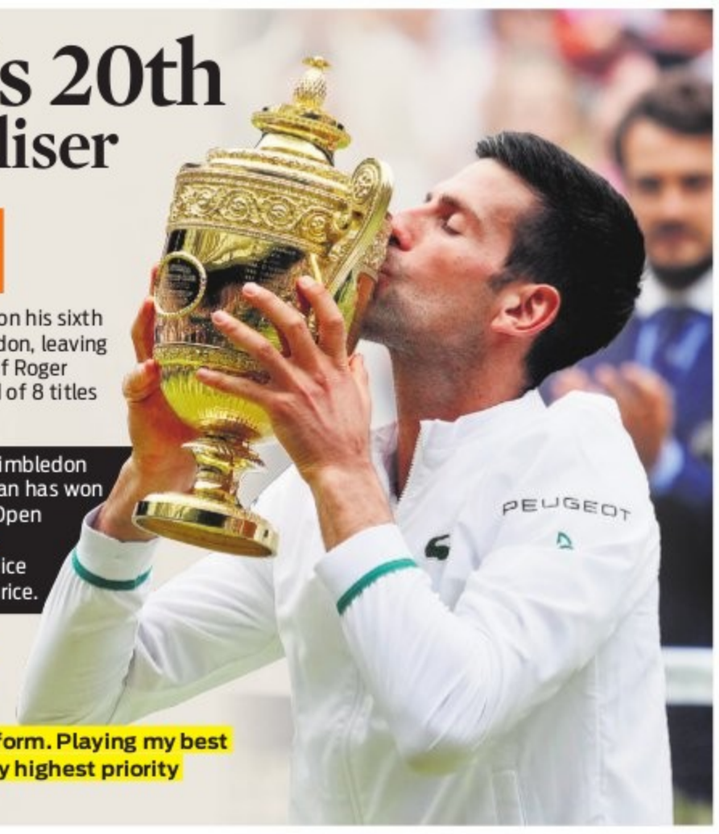
Novak Djokovic beat Matteo Berrettini 6-7 (4), 6-4, 6-4, 6-3 to win his 20th Grand Slam title and equal Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal's tally.

SIXTH

Djokovic also won his sixth title at Wimbledon, leaving him two short of Roger Federer's record of 8 titles at SW19.

Djokovic is the second man after Rod Laver in the Open Era to win the **FIRST THREE GRAND SLAMS** in a calendar year.

Apart from 6 Wimbledon titles, the Serbian has won the Australian Open **NINE TIMES,** French Open twice and US Open thrice.



> I could definitely envision the calendar Grand Slam happening. I am going to give it a shot. I am in good form. Playing my best tennis at Grand Slams is my highest priority
> NOVAK DJOKOVIC

High & Leo

Argentina ended their 28-year wait for a senior title after beating arch-rivals Brazil 1-0 in the Copa America final at Maracana Stadium on Saturday. Lionel Messi was ecstatic after winning his first trophy with the national team since making his debut in 2005. Before this victory, Messi had lost four finals with Argentina.

> I needed to remove from myself the thorn of not achieving something with the national team.
> LIONEL MESSI

Messi's four goals during the competition took his tally to 76 for Argentina. He is just one goal away from matching the all-time South American mark set by Pele for Brazil.

Indian-origin boy jr Wimbledon champ

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

SAMIR Banerjee came into Wimbledon with one objective: win one round. So it's fair to say his reaction after the final — where he beat Victor Lilov 7-5, 6-3 — was perfectly par for the course. An overcooked backhand from Lilov prompted the 17-year-old to drop his racquet on No 1 Court. He then proceeded to mouth 'what have I done?' a few times before shaking Lilov's hand. After that exchange at the net, he once again asked himself 'what did I do?' He may have also pinched himself in the process, to convince himself that this wasn't a dream.

To answer his question, he became the first US player to win a junior boys Wimbledon title since 2015 (Reilly Opelka). What's remarkable is that this was only his second appearance at this level (the US player of Indian origin lost in the first round of the French Open). Both his father (born in Assam) and mother (born in Andhra Pradesh) moved to the US more than 30 years ago.

However, Banerjee will not be becoming a professional. Not yet anyway. His Instagram page notes that he will move to Colombia University in New York. P11

Twitter names its grievance officer in line with IT rules

Releases first monthly compliance report on complaints it received, acted upon

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

AFTER staring the Centre in the face for weeks, microblogging site Twitter on Sunday partially fell in line, appointing an Indian as its grievance redressal officer as mandated under the newly notified IT rules. It also released its first monthly compliance report in accordance with the rules.

Called the 'India Transparency Report: User Grievances and Proactive Monitoring July 2021', Twitter said it received 94 grievances and 'actioned' 133 URLs between May 26 and June 25.

Twitter named Vinay Prakash as its resident grievance officer in India to comply with the rules and shared his company email on the website. On Twitter's transparency page, it said, "In compliance with Rule 4(1)(d) of the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, we have published our inaugural report on July 11, 2021 for the reporting period from May 26, 2021 through to June 25, 2021."

The company said it had received 94 grievances via its grievance officer-India channel. The majority of complaints were of defamation, abuse/harassment, sensitive adult content, impersonation and privacy infringement, IP-related infringement, and misinformation/synthetic and manipulated media. The highest number of URLs against which action was taken was for defamation, followed by abuse.

"In addition to the above data, we processed 56 grievances which were appealing Twitter account suspensions. These were all resolved and the appropriate responses were sent."

In the category of 'proactive monitoring data', Twitter said 18,385 accounts were suspended over the issue of child sexual exploitation, non-consensual nudity and similar content. Over 4,100 accounts were suspended for promotion of terrorism. These, however, represent global actions and are not just India specific.

Recently, the Delhi High Court had refused to allow any interim protection to Twitter. Earlier this month, Twitter had appointed an interim chief compliance officer. It had also sought eight weeks from the Delhi High Court to appoint a grievance officer. Twitter has already been booked in four cases.

'Actioned' on defamation

The catagory-wise URLs 'actioned' upon are: defamation (87), abuse/harassment (38), impersonation (1), infringement of privacy (6) and misinformation/synthetic and manipulated media (1)

NATIONWIDE	JULY 10	JULY 11
Fresh cases	42,766	41,506
Recoveries	45,254	41,526
Deaths	1,206	895

KARNATAKA	JULY 10	JULY 11
Fresh cases	2,162	1,978
Recoveries	2,879	2,326
Deaths	48	56

Amid unlock, State hits low of 1.6L tests a day; vax coverage at 6.64%

RANJANI MADHAVAN & IFFATH FATHIMA @ Bengaluru

THE Unlock Phase 3 has begun from July 5 and people have started stepping out, but Karnataka is lagging on vaccination and testing fronts, reveals data.

At the same time, Bengaluru Urban, where the largest number of people are venturing out, has seen an increase in the number of active cases for the first time since May 17 — from 13,237 on Saturday to 13,459 on Sunday.

The Health Department data shows that the number of daily tests has steadily declined since July 5. The number of Covid tests on July 7 was 1,66,631, but on July 10 it fell to 1,45,666, though it picked up on Sunday to 1,58,898. But the focus has been on random testing rather than target-based, focussed testing, as suggested by experts. The total number of tests conducted so far, since the pandemic impacted the state in March 2020, is 3,59,34,618 (over 3.59 crore as on Sunday) against the state's estimated domicile population of 6.84 crore (including children) and vaccination-targeted population of 7.07 crore (including a large section of migrant workers and floating population). P3

EXPRESS READ

Branson completes historic space trip

Spaceport (USA): British billionaire Richard Branson flew to space and back on Sunday aboard the VSS Unity. Virgin Galactic's spaceship VMS Eve, carrying VSS Unity, took off at 8.10 pm IST. The space plane detached from the mothership at 50,000 feet, ascending to a height of 88 km, before returning to Earth. P5,12

Bonhomie across parties as new Guv Gehlot takes oath

Bengaluru: Even as veteran BJP leader Thawar Chand Gehlot took oath as the 19th Governor of Karnataka on Sunday, political leaders cutting across party lines were seen participating in the oath-taking ceremony at Raj Bhavan. Leader of Opposition in Assembly Siddaramaiah, Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge and CM BS Yediyurappa were seen greeting each other and the Governor. P4

WITH THIS ISSUE
THE ESSENTIAL CAMPUS DIGEST edex
32 PAGES, INCLUDING 16 OF edex (TABLOID) & 4 of City Express

Piramal

Cleaning kyun mumma ka turn?

Extra thick and extra moist baby wipes for extra care.

Jojoba Oil | Extra Moist | Aloe Vera

Littles™
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www.littlesindia.in | Piramal.Littles

Couldn't Complete Degree, What Next?

2021 Admissions Open

Awarded the Most Preferred B-School in South India 2019 by ASSOCHAM India
Awarded the Most Preferred B-School for Placements 2020 by ASSOCHAM India
Awarded the Most Innovative Business School in South India at the Times Business Awards 2020

There are many who could not complete degree due to reasons beyond their control. All these people have been cursing their luck and have remained either unemployed or under employed. Some, by sheer hard work and determination have found jobs, but are still staring at a not-so-bright future due to lack of graduate /postgraduate qualifications. In the present competitive environment, graduate and postgraduate qualifications are a must for career progress.

GEMS B SCHOOL – Bangalore in association with an international US university is offering a three year BBA+MBA specially tailor made for Diploma holders and non-graduates. Thousands who have completed this program have come out of the stigma of being a non- graduate and have witnessed a dramatic change in their professional, personal and social lives.

Candidates who join this program are expected to work Monday to Friday and attend classes on Saturdays and Sundays. GEMS B SCHOOL will find a job for them in the specialisation of their choice, a job which will pay them a salary and not a stipend. On completion of the course, the student earns a BBA and an MBA with 3 years of work experience.

This is an internationally recognised BBA+MBA which will open up job and promotion opportunities both in India and abroad for the hardworking. This is a golden opportunity for non-graduates to acquire graduate and post-graduate qualifications.

Many students who completed this BBA+MBA are currently working for organizations like Accenture, TESCO, Convergys, Cap Gemini, HP, HSBC, Infosys, IBM, Mphasis, Wipro and many more multinationals. Many have migrated abroad.

Students are also offered an opportunity to parallely pursue a BBA degree from a UGC recognised University, to help them with applying for Government jobs.

Hostel facility is also available for students from outside Bangalore.

Candidates who want to apply for this course have to clear an entrance test which is available online, 24/7, the link to the test is www.gemsadmissiontest.com.

INTERNATIONAL PROGRESSION (Optional)

GEMS B SCHOOL's strategic partnership with University of Sunderland-UK enables students enrolling for the Corporate Integrated BBA+MBA program for a course progression into an MBA program at University of Sunderland in Sunderland or London. Students can complete the first 2 years of the BBA+MBA at GEMS B SCHOOL and progress to University of Sunderland in Sunderland or London for the last semester to get an MBA degree from University of Sunderland.

University of Sunderland is a highly ranked and reputed University in UK with campuses in Sunderland, London and Hong Kong. Students will be granted a UK student Visa for 3 years (1 year + 2 years extension) and will be eligible to work in the UK during this period.

The International progression is only for students who are interested in this option and is not mandatory for all. Students enrolling for the Corporate Integrated BBA+MBA have time upto 2 years to decide whether they would like to choose this option.

This BBA + MBA program is only for under graduates (10+2) who are above 21 Years of age. Students who have just completed 10+2 are not eligible for this program.

Please note: Students unable to visit our campus for admissions, specially from outside Bengaluru, can join the program through an online admission process from the convenience of their homes. 1st semester classes will start and continue to be through online mode, until it is safe for all our students from across the country to start offline classes in our campus and until the Government of Karnataka permits us.

GEMS B SCHOOL
THE CAREER CATALYSTS
MYSORE MAHARAJA INSTITUTE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

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E-mail: scalinggreaterheights@gemsbschool.com
Visit: www.gemsbschool.com

Mob: 7411 557597, 98451 25069, 9591 724397, 7411 557602, 7411 557601
Entrance test: www.gemsadmissiontest.com

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THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU

ALMANAC TODAY
Monday : 12/07/2021 • Year: Plava • Ayana: Uttharayana
Ritu: Greeshma • Masa: Ashada • Paksha: Shukla • Tithi: Dwitheeya 6.56 am
Nakshatra: Ashlesha 2.34 am • Moon in Simha Rashi • Rahukaala: 07:30 am to 09:00 am
Gulikakala: 01:30 pm to 03:00 pm • Yamaganda: 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

WEATHER
MIN 20°C | MAX 26°C
FORECAST
Showers late. Overcast

Sunrise 6.00 am
Sunset 6.50 pm
Moonrise 7.49 am
Moonset 8.53 pm

02 BENGALURU MONDAY 12.07.2021 newindianexpress.com

Tech glitches hit runway visibility equipment at KIA

Tool on other runaway unaffected, to handle traffic; pandemic delays repair works

S LALITHA @ Bengaluru

IT has been over two months since crucial equipment that helps measure the visibility range on one of the runways at the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) has stopped working. The operations are now being handled on the other refurbished North Runway where the equipment is functioning properly, airport sources said.

The nonfunctioning equipment was notified in an advisory sent to airmen on any issues they face while landing at KIA. It was first issued in the NOTAM on April 21 and was again specified on June 24 and the advisory is valid till July 23.

The equipment, Drishti Transmissometer, has been developed by Bengaluru-based National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL) and the Indian Meteorological Department. "The Transmissometer at the 09L end of the Runway needs to be set right, while the 27R end is functioning. The equipment plays a crucial role in assessing visibility conditions when a flight is landing during fog or thunderstorms. It offers an accurate runway visual range to the pilots," a source said.

Cables connected to the equipment send alerts to the IMD as well as the Air Traffic Control Room, he added.

There has been repeated correspondence on the issue with NAL, and the Directorate General of Civil Aviation has carried out an inspection of the runway. The Covid pandemic has delayed fixing the issue, another source said.

While similar equipment in the past were of Australian make, these are indigenously developed as part of the Atma Nirbhar initiative, he added. KIA presently has six Made in India Runway Visibility Ranges (RVRs).

An average of 320-330 flights land and take off each day on both the runways, another source said.

WHEN THE VISTA OPENS UP

Passengers aboard the two Vistadome coaches attached to the Mangaluru-Yesvantpur Junction day train, had a thrilling experience on the inaugural journey as the locomotive traversed through the enchanting Western Ghats, specifically the scenic Sakleshpur-Subramanya Ghat section. From Monday onwards, two sets of tri-weekly special and one weekly special express between the two cities will have Vistadome coaches | SHRIRAM BN

Contractors to seek legal action against BDA

S LALITHA @ Bengaluru

THE contractors of the seven Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) commercial complexes, work for which has been put on hold for the last 21 months, are contemplating legal action. The authority's plans to shore up its rental revenues through these complexes in prime locations have hit a major roadblock.

Representatives of the two firms which have bagged the contract met BDA Chairman and Yeshwanthpur MLA S R Vishwanath last week, and asked for the nod to resume construction, as they have been incurring huge losses.

"A firm (Mfar) has issued an arbitration notice against the BDA too. We will be seeking legal opinion on how to go about the issue. They can be allowed to proceed with the work only if they agree to certain modifications in the contract," the chairman told The New Indian Express.

The BDA has 566 shops in seven commercial complexes — HSR Layout, Austin Town, Koramangala, Vijayanagar, Sadashivnagar, RT Nagar and Indiranagar. Most of them are in bad shape with minimum rentals fixed. "The move to revamp them completely on a public private partnership mode was taken up so that the authority's annual rental income could go up from the present Rs 7 crore to Rs 38.98 crore," said a reliable source.

The Indiranagar complex (estimated to cost Rs 650 crore) was awarded to Maverick Holdings and Private Limited, while the other six complexes (estimated to cost Rs 300 crore) were awarded to MFar Developers. The original deadline was March 2021.

Explaining the stalemate, Vishwanath said that the BDA wants a revision in the rent to be paid by the firms. "As per the original contract, BDA was to get 30% rental from shops, while 70% would go to the private party. We want 45% rent to be handed over to BDA now." He also added that the contract period also needs to be reduced from 60 to 30 years.

We will be seeking legal opinion on how to go about the issue. Contractors will be allowed to proceed with work only if they agree to certain modifications in contract

S R Vishwanath, MLA

PET-UNFRIENDLY

Bengaluru's only canine park goes to the dogs

Garbage strewn across the canine park in Domlur | EXPRESS

S LALITHA @ Bengaluru

AFTER spending money from their own pockets and revamping the canine park in Domlur, dog lovers are disappointed as Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) led the park down to a path of decay.

Locals are of the opinion that efforts are being made to convert the park into something else. Dr Hemant Agrawal, pediatrician and Founder of Domlur Dog Park Club recalls the initial days, when he removed pieces of removing glass from the plot along with animal rights activist V K Ilango. Tracing the ups and downs the park went through, he said that the park became a favourite of dog lovers in the surrounding area. "It was open 24x7. We had a play area and arrangements were also made for poop disposal among other amenities," he said. By August 2019, BBMP closed it down with the promise of upgrading it.

"After insisting for a long time, the park was again opened on November 1, 2020. A week after the launch, BBMP closed it again by removing the amenities installed," he added.

Ravindra, Executive Engineer (Projects-East), BBMP told TNIE, "We need to get an official order from horticulture department to convert it into a dog park."

DISPOSAL OF MASKS A CAUSE OF CONCERN

BOSKY KHANNA
@ Bengaluru

THANKS to necessary awareness, most people are wearing masks now, but the issue before the waste handling agencies is regarding categorisation of used and thrown masks and their disposal.

Due to rising awareness on Covid-appropriate behaviour, citizens and officials are using cloth, surgical and N-95 masks and some are even choosing to double mask. So, to address this disposal issue, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) solid waste management wing and the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) have decided to join hands.

The KSPCB officials are now asking the urban local bodies to make citizens aware of how to dispose of the masks. That is not all, some garment factory employees have also taken up the task of educating people in their neighbourhood about disposal methods.

KSPCB member Secretary Srinivasulu told The New Indian Express that normally people throw the masks in the dustbins, but they should rather cut it up, then leave it untouched for 72 hours, and then throw it away. If it is a cloth mask, then it can be thrown in the dustbin like a handkerchief.

"If it is the mask of a Covid positive person, then it should be treated as a bio-medical waste and should be disposed with other medical waste scientifically," he said.

The two agencies are facing the problem of masks being recycled by waste collectors, which poses a bigger health hazard. "To address this issue, awareness at the ground-level is needed. It is also important to look at the cases rising from home isolation. This needs to be addressed," he added.

Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

12th July: I see astrology in terms of opportunity, so it's fortunate that today's planets offer us all a chance to understand our emotions much better; to be more gracious and generous with those who are worse off than ourselves – and less jealous and resentful of those who are better off!

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
You may be feeling slightly miffed at the behaviour of someone who appears to have little regard for your financial status or earnings, yet the continuing presence of Mars in your sign reveals that the time is fast approaching when you will be proved to have been right.

TAURUS (Apr. 21 - May 21)
Concern about your emotional well-being may be aroused by secret worries. Yet under current planetary influences you've a golden opportunity to deal with any lingering problems and get into shape for the coming months Venus, that most affectionate planet, is receiving plenty of support, so you should reach your goals.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
Pluto's continuing challenge to your sign is really quite wearing and, right now, there seems little doubt about the necessity for compromise, whether you want to or not. It may take a show of generosity to win you over. Partners have the best ideas, by the way, so sit back and listen.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
Traditionally Cancer is considered an artistic sign, yet all too often you have ignored creative aspirations that need to be expressed and talents that should be developed. Over the next fortnight why don't you look for ways to make up for all that lost time?

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23)
You learnt many years ago that life is not always easy, but that sometimes it's periods of stress which result in the greatest success and ultimately personal satisfaction and happiness. So don't let current problems disturb you any more than is necessary.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)
Although you often adopt a high moral stance, in practice you are easily seduced into spreading gossip which may be baseless, or in harming other people's interests through ill-considered secret activities. Try to be more open and honest, and don't let rivals get under your skin.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
By now the situation in your second solar house reveals that your financial affairs could well be in a muddle, but if you're in a state of uncertainty this reflects the fact that there are a number of different options before you. Professional adjustments should be nearing completion.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
The winds of change are blowing through at least one major area of your life and you may be wondering where it will all end. The truth is that the current rash of alterations and adjustments should come to an end within a month. As soon as that happens, you'll be able to plan your next step.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)
Much of what is going on behind the scenes will undoubtedly be to your benefit if only you would sit back and let certain events take their natural course. There may be a number of delays, but nothing you can't handle by calling on your creative skills.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)
Social influences are definitely working in your favour, and if you're unhappy with the attitude or behaviour of someone with whom you're closely involved, why not take the bull by the horns, bring tensions to the surface and make certain that everyone is reassured.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
If you haven't already done so it's absolutely essential that you take practical and hard-headed decisions. Even though there may be one or two hold-ups today, you must press ahead with your original schedule. Try to cut down on financial costs before they spin out of control.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar 20)
Jupiter, your benevolent ruling planet, doesn't seem to know whether it wants to help you with your current plans or force you to take a different course altogether. The truth is, you must try and keep all the alternatives in mind. I know that's a tall order, but I also know that if anyone can do it, you can.

THE PHANTOM

BEFORE YOU GO, COLONEL....
I HAVE HER RIGHT HERE, COMMANDER....
PRISONER #31961. SAVARNA DEVI.
WHAT CELLBLOCK IS SHE IN?
THAT ASSASSIN HELD IN GRAVELINES....
INDIAN NATIONAL... CONDEMNED TO DEATH. AWAITING EXECUTION.
DE PAUL + WOOLF
6/5

HI AND LOIS

BEETLE BAILEY

BEETLE! YOU DRIVE ME CRAZY!!!
JARNS! NITTLES! GRAWLIXES! ©!
WHAT'S THAT ©, SARGE? I'VE NEVER HEARD THAT ONE BEFORE
GREG + MORT WALKER
I COPYRIGHTED ALL SARGE'S EPITHETS

BLONDIE

BOSS, I THINK I'VE EARNED A PROMOTION
YOU'RE ALREADY THE OFFICE MANAGER AT J.C. DITHERS AND COMPANY, BUMSTEAD!
THERE MUST BE A STEP AFTER OFFICE MANAGER, ISN'T THERE?
OF COURSE, MY BOY
IT'S CALLED FORMER OFFICE MANAGER AT J.C. DITHERS AND COMPANY!

LOCKHORNS

DENNIS THE MENACE

SUDOKU

Easy: Test your number crunching skill with our unique puzzle

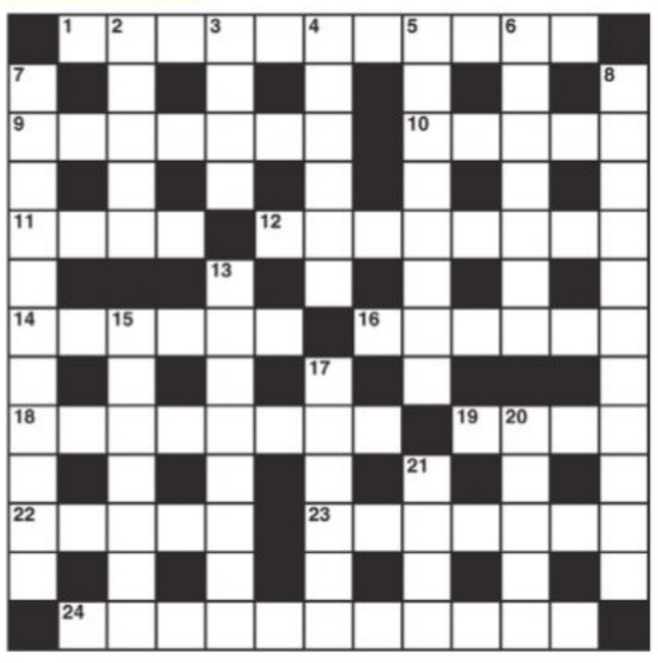
Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.

	4			5		3		
7			1			8		5
				8	6		7	2
	2	1			5		8	7
		7	8		4	2		
6	8		3			1	5	
9	3		7	4				
8		5			9			4
		2		6			9	

Solutions to Saturday's puzzle

3	4	8	6	5	1	9	2	7
1	6	7	4	2	9	8	5	3
5	9	2	7	3	8	1	6	4
8	3	5	9	4	2	7	1	6
9	2	1	3	6	7	4	8	5
4	7	6	8	1	5	3	9	2
7	8	4	2	9	6	5	3	1
6	5	3	1	8	4	2	7	9
2	1	9	5	7	3	6	4	8

CROSS WORD



ACROSS

1 Band leader waves at customers (11)
9 Screen has red centre and unusual rose edging (7)
10 Stray around in the woods perhaps (5)
11 A unit in the Salvation Army East of Suez (4)
12 Makes a shambles of a Schubert variation (8)
14 Points to one of several contemporary children as being bright (6)
16 Squirm and turn whiter (6)
18 Things one eats or wastes (8)
19 Tail cut to a point (4)
22 Alert for a change in the future (5)
23 I adopt a Latin form of language (7)
24 A direct route provided immediately (11)

DOWN

2 Choice of two keys I found in the kennel (5)
3 Prepare for take-off? (4)
4 Sound cover for some old entertainment (6)
5 It helps if you require a frame up (4,4)
6 Beg for an adjustment in net rate (7)
7 Lets one down lightly (6),4)
8 Looking for golden opportunities? (11)
13 I go after the winner with a very long ruler (8)
15 Five players still not inwardly disheartened (7)
17 Intentionally exasperating? (6)
20 Feature on a foreign land (5)
21 The ultimate in salt shakers (4)

SATURDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Friend, 4 Sporadic, 9 Rating, 10 Profound, 12 Eyed, 13 Stick, 14 Plot, 17 Trade returns, 20 Brilliantine, 23 Oath, 24 Acute, 25 Lava, 28 Stay away, 29 Spoils, 30 Leavened, 31 Pranks.

Down: 1 Forfeits, 2 In the bag, 3 Nuns, 5 Parachutists, 6 Rifle, 7 Double, 8 Cadets, 11 Steeplechase, 15 Yeam, 16 Inane, 18 Citation, 19 Relapses, 21 Tonsil, 22 Strata, 26 Game, 27 Spar.

JUMBLE By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

WADAR
MRYMU
SAGNIS
GDLEEP

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He went through so much. Why did he never quit?
The author wanted to show what a person will do for true love.
IT WAS EASY FOR THE FICTIONAL CHARACTER TO BE STUBBORN BECAUSE HIS ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon

ANSWERS TOMORROW

SATURDAY'S: **Jumbles:**
BISON VINYL EASILY LARGER
ANSWER: When the competitive identical twins celebrated their birthday, it was – SIBLING "REVELRY"

TRACKING COVID-19

SPEED AND RISE OF COVID-19 CASES IN KARNATAKA

1,978 CASES REPORTED TODAY
2,162 CASES REPORTED YESTERDAY

DAILY STANDSTILL

TODAY	28,71,298
YESTERDAY	28,69,320

DEATHS

TODAY	YESTERDAY
56	48

DISCHARGES

TODAY	YESTERDAY
2,326	2,879

Active cases

TODAY	37,141
YESTERDAY	37,906

The first Covid-19 case in Karnataka was reported on March 8, 2020. Since then until July 11, 2021, a total of 28,71,298 cases have been reported in 1 year and 121 days...

POSITIVITY RATE	
TODAY	7.99%
YESTERDAY	8.02%
MORTALITY RATE	
TODAY	1.24%
YESTERDAY	1.29%
RECOVERY RATE	
TODAY	97.47%
YESTERDAY	97.45%

DISTRICT-WISE COVID CASES
LAST 24 HOURS

433 BENGALURU URBAN

64 BENGALURU RURAL

Bagalkot	0
Ballari	6
Belagavi	112
Bidar	3
Chamarajanagar	40
Chikkaballapur	16
Chikkamagaluru	45
Chitradurga	31
Dakshina Kannada	195
Davanagere	22
Dharwad	30
Gadag	4
Hassan	132
Haveri	3
Kalaburagi	16
Kodagu	85
Kolar	38
Koppal	6
Mandya	56
Mysuru	261
Raichur	3
Ramanagara	11
Shivamogga	124
Tumakuru	100
Udupi	92
Uttara Kannada	45
Vijayapura	4
Yadgir	1

Citizens seek death audit, say govt failed in Covid fight

Write letter to CM, list demands, want adequate compensation

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

CIVIL society organisations and citizens from varied backgrounds are calling for a 'Count Every Death' campaign, asking the government to look at Covid-19 deaths, and other deaths that took place during the pandemic, as more than just statistics.

The citizens have come out with an open letter to CM BS Yediyurappa, with a list of demands, besides an analysis of facility-wise cases and deaths. The campaign aims to highlight pitfalls in the government's handling of the Covid-19 situation, and hold the state accountable. The signatories believe that criminal negligence by the government, lack of preparedness for the second wave of Covid despite advance notice of its onset, combined with a weak public health system, have all led to a vast number of avoidable deaths and severe long-term social and economic fallout.

"The State Government must acknowledge the avoidable Covid deaths and apologise to the people, particularly to families who lost their loved ones, for its colossal failure in tackling Covid and preventing these deaths. Carry out the mandated exercise of analysis of facility-wise cases and deaths in all hospitals, and death audits for all deaths in hospital, and the community since April 2020," the letter demanded, adding that the State Government must prepare and publicise a 'State Covid Death Register' documenting all deaths during the pandemic. The letter demanded insurance of Rs 50 lakh, a comprehensive rehabilitation package, and compensatory appointment for families of frontline workers and health workers who lost their lives to Covid. They called for disbursing Rs 30 lakh compensation to families facing financial difficulties after losing members to Covid, a rehabilitation package, government employment for surviving spouses and free education for their children.

Police slap penalties on those not adhering to Covid-19 norms in Mysuru on Sunday | UDAYSHANKAR S

Poorna Ravishankar, member of Count Every Death, said several non-Covid patients lost their lives as tertiary care hospitals like Victoria were turned into Covid hospitals. "Had the state planned, all this would not have happened. Our campaign has highlighted the voices of those who lost their lives to the Chamarajanagar oxygen tragedy, doctors working in rural areas without much support from the state government, pourakarmikas who lost their lives to Covid and did not receive compensation, those who lost their livelihood due to the lockdown etc. The government must apologise for mismanagement and account for every death. We will keep placing fresh demands, highlighting every aspect of how they failed and ask how they plan to remedy it before the third wave," Ravishankar said.

The letter stressed strengthening public health infrastructure, including setting up more hospitals, PHCs and CHCs.

COVID WATCH

Finally, positivity rate dips below 8%

BENGALURU: Since May 17, the positivity rate has stayed above 8 pc, and after 56 days, it has dipped below 8 pc to stand at 7.99 pc. After seeing a spike in cases, going above 2,000 and 3,000 for the past six days, Sunday saw a moderate 1,978 new cases. This took the state tally to 28,71,298. There were fewer discharges on Sunday than the day before, with 2,326 recoveries. The mortality rate stayed the same at 1.24 pc, with 56 deaths taking the toll to 35,835.

Govt should look at RT-PCR, focused testing

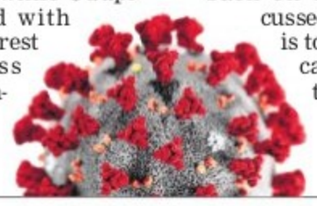
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

THE testing percentage works out to 52.46 and 50.77 of domicile and target population, respectively.

On the vaccination front, the programme, launched on January 16 this year, has so far seen a 6.64 per cent of the target population (7.07 crore) being vaccinated with both doses. The healthcare workers' segment has witnessed the largest share of vaccination with 32.27 per cent; above-45 age segment, 22.21 per cent; frontline workers, 1.33 per cent; and 18-45 age segment, 0.70 per cent.

Karnataka has so far administered 2.56 crore doses (first and second shots). But with the Unlock 3 phase starting, experts suggest that the vaccination drive needs to pick up in every district to keep cases low.

According to the state war room data, Bengaluru Urban has the highest vaccination coverage at 71.41 per cent, while Udupi district is second with 52.33 per cent. The rest have achieved less than 46 per cent. Raichur has the lowest coverage at 27.29 per cent.



Experts attribute this to hesitancy still prevailing among the population and an intermittent shortage of vaccine supplies to the state.

"Tracking of cases and target testing are two important ways to mitigate the pandemic. Ramping up vaccination should be the mantra and the focus should be back on RTPCR-based focussed testing. The idea is to detect all positive cases and start the treatment soon to delay the third wave. The later the third wave sets in, lesser the danger, because by then, more people would have got vaccinated," said Dr CN Manjunath, Director, Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences and Research, and member of state's Covid-19 Technical Advisory Committee.

Dr Edmond Fernandes, CEO, CHD Group, and a public health expert, said, "The drive needs to pick up in every district, especially where industries, schools and colleges are highly concentrated. Vaccination must be our single answer, while on the sidelines, we should step up bed capacity at hospitals," he said.

CLASSIFIEDS

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **KRISHNA .N,** S/o Sri Narayanappa, aged about 68 years, R/a No. 38, Nanjappa Layout, II Cross, Arasinakunte Village, Near Adarshanagar, Nelamangala Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District-562123, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **KRISHNAPPA** to **KRISHNA .N,** henceforth I shall be known and called as **KRISHNA .N** only, vide affidavit dated 06-07-2021, sworn before Advocate and Notary **B. HANUMANTHARAYA** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

We, **1) Sri. V.B. Praveen,** S/o. Balakrishnan V.V., aged about 41 years, **2) Smt. Manjusha R.,** W/o. V.B. Praveen, aged about 36 years, Both are residing at Flat No. M-207, 'B' Block, Adithya Pristine KMC Apartment, Opp. Sharada Vidya Mandira School, Kadugodi, Bangalore - 560 067, changed our son's name from **TUSHANTH P.M.** to **V.P. JIVA** vide affidavit dated 8.7.2021 sworn before M. Krishnamurthy, Advocate & Notary, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, NISAR S/o Mr. Shaik Rehamathulla, R/o No. 143/A/24, 6th Cross, 3rd Main, Agrahara Layout, Jakkur Post, Yelahanka, Bangalore - 560 064 have changed my name from **NISAR** to **SAIFULLA NISAR** vide affidavit dated 09.07.2021 before notary public G.P Chaya, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **HAJEERA.N**, D/o Nawazulla Baig, R/o No.G-8, 18th Cross, Giddappa Block, Sagayapuram, Frazer town, Bangalore – 560005, have changed my name as **JENNIFER.N** vide affidavit dated 18.06.2021 sworn before notary S.I. Balaguru, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **SWAMY,** residing at No. 15/27, 6th Cross, 6th Main Road, Venkatapura, Koramangala, Bangalore - 560 034, have changed my minor daughter's name from **NINGAMMA S.** to **SHRUTHI S.** vide affidavit dated 9.7.2021 sworn before B.M. Chandrashekar, Advocate & Notary, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **MUSKAN.N**, D/o Nawazulla Baig, R/o No.G-8, 18th Cross, Giddappa Block, Sagayapuram, Frazer town, Bangalore – 560005, have changed my name as **MERLIN.N** vide affidavit dated 18.06.2021 sworn before notary S.I. Balaguru, Bangalore.

LOST OF DOCUMENT

Public are inform that I **Mr K.M. Venktesh S/o Munivenktappa,** aged 48, resident of Kuderegere Tarahunse Post Jade Hobli Bangalore North 562157 confirm that I am resident of the address. Have misplaced the original sale deed of katha **SY No 59 Land No LND CR 630 CR87/98-99 Saguvali chiti No 2192** while getting Xerox near my residence,further the police compliant has been lodged on 8/7/2021 through online vide 1039728/2021 to this effect ,Person finding the said original deed may kindly return the same to the under signed.

K.M.Venkatesh - Ph. 9035302061

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our client **Smt.Vanitha.C.S.** W/o Sridhar.C.N. is intending to purchase the schedule property from the owner Sri. Shridhar Punachithaya. K. morefully described in the schedule hereunder. Any person/s having any claims of whatsoever nature, in respect of the schedule property or any portion thereof, may write to the undersigned within 10 days of issuance of this notice with documentary evidence on which basis they are making their claims in respect of the schedule property or any part thereof in any manner whatsoever, failing which our client shall proceed to purchase the schedule property that there are no claims of whatsoever nature in respect of the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of residential converted Site bearing No.52, in Rose Block/Jasmine Block formed in layout of " VAKIL GARDEN CITY" presently BBMP assign New No.52/52 situated at Thalagattapura/Mallasandra Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, measuring South East to North West 18 meters , North East to South West 12 meters totally measuring 216 Squere meters, together with all rights, appurtenances, whatsoever whether underneath or above the surface and bounded on:-

East by : Private Property
West by : Road
North by : Site No.51
South by : Site No 53.

K.B.Jagannathappa & Hanumanthe Gowda .S., Advocates Srinivasa Building, 2nd Floor, 2nd Main, 2nd Cross, 5th Main, Gandhinagar, Bangalore-9. Mob.9448615560
Date-9-7-2021

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Client has intended to purchase the site property mentioned in the schedule hereunder from the present owner **Ms. M.R Sowmya D/o. M.R Rajashekar,** aged about 36 years, and residing at No. 16, Besant Road, Royapettah, Chennai.

It is represented by the aforesaid owner of the schedule property that she has clear and marketable title to the same. Any persons who claims any right, title or interest of any nature in or any lien, charge or enforceable right in relation to the schedule property and/or has any objections of any nature to the transaction should lodge such claim and/or objections, in writing to the undersigned together with supporting documents within **10 (Ten) days** hereof, failing which it will presumed that no valid claims or objections subsist and my client would proceed to complete the transaction of sale with the owner thereof, if any objections or claim is/are received thereafter will not bind my client, subject to compliance with other statutory and legal formalities.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of Vacant Residential Site, bearing **Site No. 182, Khatha No. 334, the property comes under Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, Rajarajeshwarinagar Ward, (Ward No. 160) formed out of Survey No. 69 & 70,** measuring 2400 Sq ft. (East to West : 60 ft and North to South : 40 ft) at situated at **Basaveshwara Layout, Halagevaderahalli Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, Bengaluru,** along with other appurtenances and bounded on the :

East by : Road,
West by : Site No. 203,
North by : Site No. 181
South by : Site No. 183

Sunit Sadasivan, Advocate,
S-0358, USHAS, 7th Cross, 8th Main, BEL Layout 2nd Stage, Vishawneedam Post, Bengaluru 560091
Ph: 9980132137
Bangalore Date : 12-07-2021

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Smt. MUNIYAMMA D/O THAKKAREDDY, aged about 51 years, R/at No. 5th Block, 1st Floor, Srinivasapura, Near Sai Baba Temple, Yelahanka, Bengaluru-560064, is the owner of the property bearing Survey Number 37/1, measuring 1 Acre 13 Guntas, which is more fully described in the schedule hereunder and hereafter referred to as schedule property.

One Smt. VEENA W/O HARISH.C, aged about 32 years, R/a No.46, 7th Main, 9th Cross, J.C. Nagar, Kurubarahalli, Bengaluru-560 086. My client executed registered General Power of Attorney on 03.04.2021 in the Office of Senior Sub-Registrar, Yelahanka as Document No. YAN-4-00006-2021-22, of Book-4 and stored at C.D. No. YAND1244 Dated: 03.04.2021 to her, she started misusing false claim before authorities on behalf of our client, hence we have issued a Legal Notice to her Dated: 19-06-2021 by cancelled the General Power of Attorney . Hence the General Public/ Authorities is hereby requested to not enter any transaction and not to grant any compensation and any other like etc.,with Veena W/o Harish.C in respect of the schedule property and the same is illegal and punishable in accordance with law.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Survey Number 37/1, measuring 1 Acre 13 Guntas, 1/6th share out of that situated at Thirumenahalli village, Yelahanka Hobli, Yelahanka Taluk, Bengaluru.

G.H. VINAY, Advocate
No.19, 3rd Floor, Vinayaka Nagara, Near Kaveri Layout, Chikkabanavara, Bengaluru-90. Mob: 9738464748

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified/informed to the General Public that my clients S. Praveen Babu and Mrs. Renuka .K.H, are entered into a Sale Agreement dated 07-07-2021 to purchase the site No. 39, Khata No. 895, formed in converted Survey No. 100/3 of Horamavu Village, K.R. Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, now coming under BBMP Limits, Ward No. 25, Measuring East to West 40 feet, North to South 30 feet totally 1200 Sq. Ft. bounded on East by: Road, West by: Site No. 34, North by: Site No. 40, South by: Site No. 38, by Mr. M.R. Babu of Bangalore. Any persons/claimants who claim right, title and interest over above property may approach the below Contact Number with the relevant documents with in 10 days otherwise, my clients proceed to execution of absolute sale deed of above property.

V. CHANDRA SHEKARA, Advocate
Ph: 9844316972
S. PRAVEEN BABU, Ph: 9845019452

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GOVT. OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE: KEONJHAR

O-429

Identification No. PMGSY Online NCB No.315
No. 3054 // Date: 08-07-2021

1. Name of the work :- Construction of Road & CD works under PMGSY **(Balance Work) Programme.**
2. Total No. of Packages :- **02 Nos. individual packages.**
3. Estimated Cost of individual packages :- **Varies from Rs.100.95 lakh to Rs.143.89 lakh.**
4. Period of completion :- 9 calendar months for works below Rs.3.00 Cr. as specified in DTCN.
5. Other details :-

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	No. of Packages	Availability of tender On-line for bidding	
			From	To
1	2	3	4	5
Superintending Engineer, North Eastern Rural Works Circle, Keonjhar	PMGSY Online NCB No. 315	02 Nos.	19/07/2021 at 11.00 A.M.	02/08/2021 upto 5.00 P.M.

- Further details can be seen from the website: **www.pmgsytenders.gov.in**

Sd/- (P.K. Misra)
Chief Construction Engineer, R.W. Circle, Keonjhar. OIPR-25177/11/0001/2122

POSSESSION NOTICE (for Immovable Properties)

Whereas the Authorised Officer of **Asset Reconstruction Company (India) Limited** under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002, and in exercise of powers conferred under Section13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notices under Section 13 (2) of the said Act, calling upon the following borrowers to repay the amounts mentioned against their respective name together with interest thereon at the applicable rates as mentioned in the said notices, within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notices, along with further interest as applicable, incidental expenses, costs, charges etc. incurred till the date of payment and / or realization.

S. No.	Loan Account No./ Selling Bank Name / Borrower Name	Total Outstanding (In Rs)/ Due Date	Date & Type of Possession
1	LAN - 404HML64294453 & 404GVH64294472 / Bajaj Housing finance Ltd Mr.Manjunath P.K / Mrs. K. Saraswathi / M/s. K.M.Vinayaka Fruits	1,16,68,497.07/- as on 01.12.2020	07.07.2021 Symbolic Possession

Description of Property: The Apartment bearing Flat No. 301 on the Second Floor of Block A, PID Khatha No. 150200102900720468, Grama Panchayati Property No. (508/SF301) in the building known as 'Pioneer Sun Blossom', 626 Sq. Ft. of undivided right and interest in the converted residential land bearing Sy. No. 90/1, measuring to an extent of 1-00 Acre, situated at Maragondanahalli Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk,Bangalore District.Bounded by:-East By:Road;West By:Border of Hulimangala Village;West By:Border of Hulimangala Village;South By:Remaining portion of Property bearing Re-Sy.No.90/1.

2	LAN - MYSHL17000138 & MYSHL17000139 / L&T Housing Finance Ltd Mr. Shivaraju S / Mrs. Anjali K	46,79,470.87/- as on 08.12.2020	07.07.2021 Symbolic Possession

Description of Property: All that piece and parcel of Residential Property bearing Site No. 6, Khatha No. 12/6/46/14, Present Khatha No. 14, Old Khatha No. 46, Ward No. 185, comes under the limits of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, Subramanyapura Range, situated at Kashinagara, Yalachenahalli Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk. Bangalore and Measuring on East to West 36 (Thirty Six) Feet, and North To South 30 (Thirty) Feet, Total measuring 1080 Square feet together with 8 Squares R.C.C Roofed House, mosaic flooring having water, Electricity, Sanitary facilities and Bounded on the;East by:Road;West by:Drainage; North by:Property No. 7;South by Property No. 48.

3	LAN - BLRHL16001704 & BLRHL16001727 / L&T Housing Financial Ltd Mr. Prabhu Shankar V / Mrs. Ashwini K	3,20,25,663.16/- as on 30.11.2020	07.07.2021 Symbolic Possession

Description of Property: All that piece and parcel of the Residentially converted land in Survey No. 16/E, (duly converted for non-agricultural Residential purpose vide Conversion order No. ALN(EVH) SR/79/2014-15, dated 20.06.2014) Measuring 0.08 Guntas, Situated at ANJANAPURA Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore and Bounded on:- East by : BDA Property; West by : Land bearing Sy. No. 11; North by : Land bearing Sy. No. 8; South by : Land bearing Sy. No. 16/D.

4	LAN - BLRHL16002218 & BLRHL16002184 / L&T Housing finance Ltd Mr.Kapil Varma / Mrs.Ramachari Varma	3,39,90,070.83/- as on 30.11.2020	08.07.2021 Symbolic Possession

Description of Property: All that residential Villa No. 91 in 'DEODAR' Type, consisting of Ground and First Floor measuring 2245 Sq. Ft., built-up area, with a total Sital area of 2400 Sq. Ft, in Sy. Nos. 143/2-4, 144/1-10, 150/1-4, 151/2-5, 152 & 153/1 bearing Khatha No. 210 and Sy. Nos. 143/1, 143/5, 151/1. 156/6, bearing Khatha No. 290 together measuring 42 Acres 35 Guntas, situated at Hagadur Village, Hagadur Village Panchayath, Krishnarajapuram Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk and Sy. Nos. 51/1, 51/2, 51/3 together measuring 1 Acre 2 Guntas bearing Khatha Nos. 756, 757 and 758 (Old Nos. 729, 730 and 731) respectively, situated at Varthuru Khane Kandaya Village, Varthuru Village Panchayath, Varthuru Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk and Sy. Nos. 358/1, 358/2, 358/3A and 358/3B together measuring 2 Acres 3 Guntas bearing Khatha Nos. 24, 25, 26 and 27 respectively, Situated at Amani Bellanduru Village, Sora Hunase Village Panchayath, Varthuru Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk and specifically carved out of Sy. Nos. 150/2 and 150/3, of Hagadur Village, K.R. Puram Hobli, Bangalore, Bounded by:- East: Villa No. 83 in 'DEODAR' type of Prestige Ozone; West: Internal layout Road in Prestige Ozone; North: Villa No. 92 in 'DEODAR' type of Prestige Ozone; South:Villa No. 90 in 'DEODAR' type of Prestige Ozone.

5	LAN - 4040HL48927192 / 404FHL48927196 / 404PSB66488412 / Bajaj Finance Ltd and 404PMT32530803 Mr.Rajesh.S. / Mr.Aruna Teja.S./ M/s Raj Industries	56,30,437.75/- as on 30.11.2020	08.07.2021 Symbolic Possession

Description of Property: Flat bearing No. 102, in the First Floor, E-Khatha No. 150300401000120473,measuring about 103.59 Sq. Mtrs. or 1115 Sq. Ft. super built up area, in the multistoried residential building complex known as "VR PEARL" and 29.47 Sq. Mtrs. or 317.215 Sq. Ft. undivided right, constructed over, Property bearing VP Khatha No. 15030040102575, Converted Sy. No. 151/4, totally measuring 13 ½ Guntas, situated at Hoskote Village, Kasaba Hobli, Hoskote Taluk Bounded On:- East:Site No. 117 in Nisarga Hi-Tech Layout;; West : Property belonging to Nagala Naidu; North : Nisarga Hi-Tech Layout; South : Nisarga Hi-Tech Layout. & Khatha No. 1051, and layout formed out of Converted Sy. No. 150/1, in the Layout named "NISARGA HI-TECH PHASE II LAYOUT" situated at Kannurahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Hoskote Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, measuring 26.09+39.55 Mtrs./2 x 16.46 Mtrs. totally measuring 540.20 Sq. Mtrs. Or 5814.89 Sq. Ft. bouded on:-East : 80 feet Road; West:Private Property;North:Site Nos.118, 119, 120 & 121;South:Site Nos.116 & 115.

6	LAN - BLRHL15001562 / L&T Housing Finance Ltd Mr. Charan Kumar R / Mrs. Suchitra S	86,38,838.81/- as on 09.12.2020	08.07.2021 Symbolic Possession

Description of Property: Flat bearing No. 011 in the Ground Floor, measuring about 1250 Sq. ft super built up area, building known as "SRI KRISHANA SAI ENCLA VE ", 370 Sq. ft. undivided right title and interest in land bearing Converted Sy No.111/1, measuring an extent of 0.28 (Twenty Eight) Guntas , Present BBMP Katha No.40 6, situated at Hodi Village K.R Puram Hobli, earlier Bangalore South Taluk, presently Bangalore East Taluk Bangalore. Bounded on :- East by : H.N. Gopala Gowda property, West by : Remaining Kharab land belongs to owners thereafter Burial Ground and Ashrama, North by : Road, South by : Road.

7	LAN -BLRHL14001951 / L&T Housing Finance Ltd Mr. Babu L / Mrs. Swarnalatha N	36,87,176.90/- as on 14.12.2020	08.07.2021 Symbolic Possession

Description of Property: All that piece and parcel of present B.B.M.P Khatha No. 39/36, V.P. Khatha No. 33/20/1, Khaneshumari No. 33/20/1, Ward No. 85, Thubarahalli Village, presently comes under B.B.M.P. within the limits of Ramagondanahalli Grama Panchayath, Varthuru Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Measuring East to West 36 feet and North to South 17 feet and East to West 44 feet and North to South 15 feet in all measuring 1272 Sq. Ft. and Bounden on:- East by : Srinivasa Reddy's Property; West by : Road & Govt. Borewel; North by : Ananda's Property; South by : Narayana Reddy's Property.

8	LAN - 404DHL31469941 / 404DHL31471056 / 404TPY94919218 / Bajaj Finance Ltd Mr.Zameer Khan / Mrs.Shahzia Seema	57,83,649.45/- as on 10.12.2020	08.07.2021 Symbolic Possession

Description of Property: Flat bearing No. 001, having a super built up area of 1115 sq. ft., located in the Ground floor of Block I of the aforesaid Apartment Building called 'Aryan Moon Stone' & together with 390 sq. ft. of undivided share of right, tittle and interest in the Sy. No. 12/7 measuring 0 Acre 19 Guntas forming part of Land measuring 1 Acre 30 Guntas in Sy. No. 12/7 of Thanisandra Village, K.R. Puram Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, now Bangalore East Taluk, Presently bearing BBMP No. 1769/12/7/1, Thanisandra, coming within the limits of Thanisandra Range of BBMP and bounded on the:- EAST BY : Land in Sy. No. 12/12 of Thanisandra Village; West By : Remaining portion of land in Sy. No. 12/7; North By : Road and Land in Sy. No. 12/6; South By : Land in Sy. No. 12/9 of Thanisandra Village.

9	LAN - 30342152407 / State Bank of India Smt. Shyamala Kanaka Raj	32,99,264/- as on 30.06.2009	08.07.2021 Symbolic Possession

Description of Property: Flat bearing No.2, in Ground Floor, measuring 1115 sq.ft. super built up area containing 2 Bed Rooms with RCC roofing, Mosaic flooring and Honne wood doors and windows together with one covered car parking space including proportionatee share in common areas such as Passages, Lobbies, stair case and lift constructed in GTL Mansion and 275 Sq.ft. undivided interest in the immovable property mentioned in the property bearing No. 2, formed in Old Sy. No. 72, New No.151/1, converted for the residentil purpose vide Conversion Order No. ALN/SR/13/87-88, Dt: 08.07.1987 by Deputy Commissioner Bangalore District situated at Nagavarapalya, Benniganahalli Dhakale K.R. Puram Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore measuring East To West: 88ft and North To South: 25ft and Bounded on the :- East By : 30ft Road; West By: 18ft Road; North By Property No. 1; & South By: Property No.3.

10	LAN - 30399325771 / State Bank of India Mr. Kanaka Raj	37,00,709/- as on 30.06.2009	08.07.2021 Symbolic Possession

Description of Property: Flat bearing No.1, in Ground Floor, measuring 1115 sq.ft. super built up area containing 2 Bed Rooms with RCC roofing, Mosaic flooring and Honne wood doors and windows together with one covered car parking space including proportionatee share in common areas such as Passages, Lobbies, stair case and lift constructed in GTL Mansion and 275 Sq.ft. undivided interest in the immovable property mentioned in the property bearing No. 2, formed in Old Sy. No. 72, New No.151/1, converted for the residentil purpose vide Conversion Order No. ALN/SR/13/87-88, Dt: 08.07.1987 by Deputy Commissioner Bangalore District situated at Nagavarapalya, Benniganahalli Dhakale K.R. Puram Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore measuring East To West: 88ft and North To South: 25ft and Bounded on the :- East By : 30ft Road; West By: 18ft Road; North By Property No. 1; & South By: Property No.3.

Whereas the borrowers mentioned herein above have failed to repay the amounts due, notice is hereby given to the borrowers mentioned hereinabove in particular and to the public in general that the Authorized Officer of **Arcil** has taken **Symbolic Possession** of the properties/Secured Assets described herein above in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on the dates mentioned above. The borrowers mentioned hereinabove in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the aforesaid properties/Secured Assets and any dealings with the said properties/Secured Assets will be subject to the charge of **Arcil.** The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Place: Bangalore **Sd/- Authorised Officer**
Date: 12-07-2021 **Asset Reconstruction Company (India) Ltd.**

ASSET RECONSTRUCTION COMPANY (INDIA) LTD.
Registered Office: The Ruby, 10th Floor, 29 Senapati Bapat Marg, Dadar (West), Mumbai-400028. **Tel: +91 2266581300. www.arcil.co.in**
Branch Address: Unit No. 305, 3rd Floor Kedia Arcade, # 92, Infantry Road, Bangalore-560001. Tel: 080-25598054/55
CIN-U65999MH2002PLC134884

Expelled BSP MLA N Mahesh has claimed that he had no role in the fall of the JDS-Congress coalition government, and said that he was not associated with the 17 MLAs who resigned and joined the BJP. He said that KPCC president D K Shivakumar has invited the 17 MLAs to join the Congress, but he has not got an invite from the party

Monsoon session likely in Aug or Sept

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru:

THE monsoon session is likely to be held in August or September, as there are no signs of the government holding a legislative session any time in July. According to constitutional rules, a session is to be held every six months, and there is no plan so far to hold it later this month. The last session was in March.

Home, Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Basavaraj Bommai told TNIE, "We will decide when to hold the legislative session during the next cabinet meeting."

Chairman of the Upper House Basavaraj Horatti had written to Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa, suggesting that they hold it in Suvarna Soudha, Belagavi, where they have not held it since 2018. Bommai said the venue will also be decided by the cabinet.

Horatti told *TNIE* that since a number of senior BJP leaders are from North Karnataka -- Speaker V H Kageri, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Basavaraj Bommai, and himself -- it would be good if the session was held in Belagavi, but it is finally left to the government.

Opposition leader Siddaramaiah and other Congress leaders have been urging the government to hold a legislative session soon to discuss many pressing issues, including those related to the Covid pandemic.

Government sources said there are many pending issues that will have to be taken up for discussion, and since the full budget was passed, they cannot be forced to hold a session in July. Logistically speaking, sources in the government said holding the session in Belagavi means a minimum of about 350-500 staffers will have to be shifted to the North Karnataka city, including 30-40 legislative reporters, 150-200 marshals, Group D staff and others. If the session is held for one week, it means only five working days are available, and two weeks means that business is conducted only on 10 days.

Congress leader Siddaramaiah shares a table with Deputy CM CN Ashwath Narayan and Minister K S Eshwarappa during the oath-taking ceremony of Thaawar Chand Gehlot as Governor in Bengaluru on Sunday

Political rivals get together to welcome Guv

Gehlot takes oath as 19th Governor of K'taka in HIndi, Kannada activists see red

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

VETERAN Bharatiya Janata Party leader and former Union minister Thaawar Chand Gehlot took oath as the 19th Governor of Karnataka on Sunday.

Political leaders of the state cutting across party lines participated in the oath-taking ceremony at the Raj Bhavan. Chief Justice of Karnataka High Court, Justice Abhay Shreeniwas Oka, administered Gehlot the oath of office in the presence of outgoing Governor Vajubhai Vala, Karnataka Assembly Speaker Vishweshwar Hegde Kageri, Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa, his cabinet colleagues, MPs and MLAs, Chief Secretary P Ravi Kumar and senior officials of the state government.

All political differences seemed to have taken a break at the oath-taking ceremony. Leaders cutting across party lines met and greeted each other with broad smiles and warm handshakes.

Leader of opposition in the Karnataka Assembly Siddaramaiah, leader of opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge and the Chief Minister welcomed each other, while leaders from various parties -- even those who quit the JDS-Congress coalition and joined the BJP -- were seen sharing tables and a few jokes.

In keeping with this style of public appearance, 73-year-old Gehlot took the oath of office in Hindi sporting a Himachali cap. Within minutes, Kannada activists took to social media to criticise the newly appointed Governor for choosing to take the oath in Hindi. As if in response to the social media campaign, Gehlot took to his personal Twitter handle to tweet his oath in Kannada.

Gehlot succeeded 83-year-old Vala who held the post for seven years. Politically, Vala came under attack in May 2018 for inviting the BJP to form the government much to the chagrin of the Congress-JD(S) coalition, which had termed his action as that of a "Gujarati businessman". He was also targeted by the Congress-JD(S) during H D Kumaraswamy's trust vote in July 2019 for repeatedly seeking to interfere with Assembly proceedings by setting deadlines.

I AM COMMITTED TO WORK HARD, AND DELIVER AS MoS, SAYS KHUBA

NAUSHAD BIJAPUR @Belagavi

BIDAR MP Bhagwanth Khuba said the long-running dispute between Karnataka and Maharashtra over the boundary districts is a closed chapter. Bidar is one of the major cities on the border, besides Belagavi, Bhalki, Nipani, Khanapur and Karwar, which the Maharashtra government has been claiming, and has also moved the Supreme Court, in a last-ditch attempt for the transfer of these areas.

Claiming that the boundary dispute does not exist any more, he said there is no point dragging the issue. Many Marathi-speaking people in Kalyan-Karnataka region have accepted Kannada and also taught the language to their children, he said.

At 54, the young MoS is confident and excited about taking on the challenges of his role in the Narendra Modi government. His confidence sky-high, Khuba is geared up to handle two important portfolios allotted to him, and states that he is ready to work hard to meet people's expectations, effectively implement the Centre's programmes, and dreams of delivering satisfactorily as Union minister.

In an interview with TNIE after assuming office in New Delhi, Khuba spoke about his plans and challenges ahead. Excerpts.

Why do you think PM Modi inducted you as minister, from among several aspirants?

As Bidar MP for seven years, I have played a key role in the implementation of developmental works in the constituency. Several people-friendly initiatives and programmes of the Centre, especially Fasal Bima, Ujwal, Ayushman Bharat, were implemented effectively. I worked hard as MP to bolster the BJP in the region. I never gave scope for any development that tarnished the image of the party. Another plus point is my age.

Did you expect to be included in the Union cabinet?

I never expected to be in the cabinet, but certainly hoped to be, given the way I worked as party leader and MP for several years. There is a network of the Modi government across the country which keeps a tab on

the performance of party leaders. The network is aware of the work we take up for society. I am very sure that lobbying for positions and cabinet berths never works in the BJP, everything is on merit.

What are your plans for Kalyan Karnataka region, which was deprived of development for many decades?

No major projects or works are pending in Kalyan Karnataka region, as far as I know. The state government is capable of ensuring overall development of the region. Unfortunately, the Congress government did nothing other than give bogus assurances to the people for 70 years. I will take my role as minister seriously, and work for development of all regions in the country.

Do you have any plans for Karnataka in implementation of major Central projects?

With two portfolios to handle, I have to focus on implementing projects in all parts of the country. The Centre had been corresponding well with all states, and responding to their problems. Karnataka will get what it deserves from the Centre.

Do you think the Lingayat community, to which you belong, is getting its due in the BJP, given the fact that some of your own leaders are trying to unseat CM B S Yediyurappa...

I am more concerned about the utilisation of funds to be allocated to my departments, rather than politics. With so much responsibility, I have to fulfil my duties first. Kotta kudureyannu yeradavanu shuranu alla dheeranu alla (I have to fulfil the responsibility vested in me as a responsible person) is a vachana written by Allama Prabhu.

Quota cap has to be raised: MoS

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

MINISTER of State for Social Justice and Empowerment Ramdas Athawale on Sunday insisted that the Constitution of India should be amended to increase the cap on reservations. Speaking at a press conference in Bengaluru, Athawale said that the poor and vulnerable in all castes and communities deserve reservation, but extending it to all is not possible without increasing the cap on reservations in education and jobs.

"Poor and economically backward people from all communities need reservations. The Supreme Court says reservation has to be under 50 per cent, but the cap has to be increased in order to provide aid to the oppressed classes. Talks have already been held with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in this regard," the minister said.

Minister of State Ramdas Athawale adresses the media in Bengaluru on Sunday | ASHISHKRISHNA HP

Responding to a question on the Karnataka government not releasing the caste census report, Athawale said that a caste census is required across the country and doing it in just one state won't help.

Known for his controversial statements, Athawale said that there was a need to curb the spike in population among Muslims. The minister claimed that population control law is being introduced in Uttar Pradesh to reduce the spike in the Muslim population. He added that Muslimmen are allowed to marry multiple women which means they have more children and hence the law. He was quick to add that the population of all communities needs to be controlled.

ZP, TP POLLS

Devegowda may field supporters

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Mysuru

DISGRUNTLED JDS MLA GT Devegowda, who has kept himself away from all party activities for a while, hinted that he could field his supporters as independent candidates in the upcoming zilla and taluk panchayat elections.

He is talking to his supporters to find out whether they would like to contest from the JDS or as independents with his backing, sources close to him said.

He may strike a deal with Congress Legislature Party leader Siddaramaiah to have an understanding with the Congress to field independent candidates from the Chamundeshwari constituency, which has five zilla and 19 taluk panchayat seats. Also, what could work to his advantage is the lack of BJP dominance in the constituency, political observers said.

He told *The New Indian Express*, "I don't want to repeat the mistake I committed in 2008 Assembly elections, which I lost as I did not know the pulse of the people."

He too has not yet decided whether to contest the next Assembly elections from JDS or as an independent. "I and my son Harish Gowda will win if we contest as independents from Chamundeshwari, Hunsur or K R Nagar. The elections are still two years away and there is still time for the plan to crystallise," he said,

He revealed that JDS supremo HD Deve Gowda spoke to him and asked him not to leave the party, "He is confident of bringing JDS back to power in 2023. He wants to retire after achieving that," GT Devegowda added.

After ostracising, Kadugollas seek Union Min's help

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI @Tumakuru

IT was the same hamlet that had denied entry to Union Minister of State for Social Justice A Narayanaswamy two years ago just because he was from a lower caste. The issue had then been resolved within days with the intervention of prominent seers and he was allowed to enter Pemmanahalli hamlet of Pavagada taluk, where members of Kadugolla community live. The fracas is almost forgotten now and the community hopes that the newly-minted Union minister would help them get the Scheduled Caste tag, for which the Karnataka government has already sent a proposal to the Central Government.

A file photo of Narayanaswamy being welcomed at Pemmanahalli hamlet

"It was just a section of people who had opposed his entry into the hamlet because of our customs. But now things have changed as the educated lot among us will not repeat it," said Mylara Reddy, a taluk panchayat representative and a member of the community.

From young Yashvanth, an associate professor of English with a private university, to BJP worker Naveen, they all want Narayanaswamy to help the community get the ST tag.

"An anthropological study has proved the tribal lineage of the community. We have no political representatives to pursue the cause and if Narayanaswamy helps us, our community too will have bureaucrats and legislators at least in the next generation," said Yashvanth. But residents of the hamlet are upset with Narayanaswamy for not taking up any development works, except for a white-topped road, that he promised two years ago.

"He had assured us that he would adopt the village and get grants released to the hamlet, which has 80-odd houses – all with thatched-roofs," said district president of the community Chandrashekara Gowda.

It was on September 16, 2019 that Narayanaswamy was not allowed inside the hamlet, which is on the Karnataka-Andhra Pradesh border. The ostracism had grabbed headlines and on September 23, 2019, religious heads had accompanied the MP into the village and he was received well then.

Narayanaswamy had promised development works, but faced hurdles as it is not a revenue village. Now, community members demand that the Union minister get the village that status too.

'BONDING' TIME

Defiant DKS justifies slapping 'supporter', but man says hurt

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

A day after a video of him slapping a supporter went viral, KPCC president D K Shivakumar justified his actions, saying the man was a close confidant and distant relative, and that they "shared a bond".

Shivakumar was caught on camera assaulting a party worker who tried to put his arms around the leader. The KPCC chief proceeded to chide the man, and then asked the media to delete footage of the incident.

Shivakumar told reporters on Sunday, "He is our boy. He belongs to our house and is also a distant relative. He tried to put his arms around me and I hit him for behaving like that in public. I am not denying that I hit him, but it was for his mistake. That is the kind of relationship and bonding we have," Shivakumar said.

But the man who was slapped does not echo this version of the story. Instead, he said he was hurt by the incident, and went close to the Congress president only to get a photograph, as he is a Vokkaliga leader. It has come to light that the man Shivakumar slapped was Umesh, a JDS worker from Torabommanahalli in Bharatinagar, and not a relative or follower. The Congress leader was in KM Doddi to inquire after G Madegowda, and landed in the slapping controversy.

The Congress leader even taunted the media for highlighting the video. "That's the bond between us, but you kept playing the video as if it was a big deal. You made that boy a leader too," he mocked.

Shivakumar also insisted that the more than Rs 150 crore spent on the caste census during Siddaramaiah's chief ministership should not go waste.

MATTER OF CONCERN

45 cases of trafficking in B'luru in last 6 months

BALA CHAUHAN @Bengaluru

THE city police, as on June 30, have registered 45 cases of human trafficking out of which 40 are registered under the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act (ITPA), 1956. "The police have rescued 111 women victims and arrested 134 people, including 28 women, in these cases," said an official source.

Recently, the police registered two cases in connection with the gangrape of a Bangladeshi woman in Ramamurthy Nagar and Jeevan Bima Nagar police stations under Sections 3, 4, 5, 6 of the (ITPA) and Sec 370, read with Sec 34 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) for trafficking of persons. Twelve people have been arrested and chargesheeted in the case. Out of these, 11 accused and the rape survivor are Bangladeshi nationals.

"Following the investigation, the police have unearthed a well-organised network of traffickers, which include Bangladeshi and Indian nationals, who trap young girls from vulnerable backgrounds and traffic them on the pretext of providing them jobs," said official sources. "The Ramamurthy Nagar case (of gangrape) is an eyeopener to international trafficking. The survivor was trafficked at a very young age of 16 from Bangladesh to Dubai and from there to India," added the sources.

The victim has reportedly told the police that hundreds of young women from her country have been trafficked to India by the network. Last year, the city police had registered 93 cases of human trafficking under various sections of the IPC and Special and Local Laws (SLL). Of these, 77 cases were registered under ITPA and 245 female victims and two minor girls were rescued. The police had arrested 216 people for their alleged involvement in these cases, out of whom 172 were men and 44 women.

Officials at the house in Panja village in Sullia taluk where children were allegedly forced into bonded labour

7 KIDS RESCUED IN SULLIA

MANGALURU: Seven children below 14 years of age, who were allegedly forced into bonded labour, were rescued by the labour department and child protection unit during a raid in Sullia on Friday night. The incident occurred at Karikala in Panja village of Sullia taluk.

Rashmi, Child Development Project officer, said that the mentally-ill, women and children were allegedly exploited at the residence of one Vishwanath Bhat at Panja. "Even some locals had complained that many children were used as labourers in the farm of the accused. However, the investigation will reveal whether it was a case of bonded labour," she said.

Meanwhile, the children have been produced before the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) and will be shifted to a rehabilitation centre. Renni D'souza, president of CWC, said, "The parents of the children are saying that they have job security and are paid Rs 9,000. The accused family is claiming they have taken the responsibility to educate the children and the allegations are baseless," D'souza said.

Poll aspirants start online campaigns for tickets

RAGHOTTAM KOPPAR @Gadag

ASPIRANTS seeking to contest the upcoming elections to the zilla and taluk panchayats have taken to social media in a bid to get party tickets. Though the poll dates have yet to be announced and only the reservation list has been released, aspirants and followers of political leaders have rolled out online campaigns to convince their party to give them tickets.

Looking to grab more eyeballs, the aspirants are uploading videos and photos showcasing their works and achievements through the campaigns on Facebook and WhatsApp among others. Many are also taking the online route, as, unlike earlier, the apprehension regarding Covid is preventing them from visiting door-to-door.

A G Sandhigoudar, an aspirant, said that due to the second wave, they are not holding any rallies or meeting people. "We have started WhatsApp groups and are releasing video clips about our achievements. The online campaign is safe and we can reach many by sitting at home," he added.

A ZP official said, "We are also creating awareness on avoiding meetings. Online campaigns work out well."

Days after disclosing the harrowing experience of her friend who was allegedly raped by a person named Chunkath Johnson, a Olympian Mayookha Johny said she received a letter on Friday threatening her that she would be killed

Kongu Nadu: Major parties in TN oppose idea

BJP says if people wish for bifurcation, then it's Centre's responsibility to execute it

T MURUGANANDHAM @Chennai

WHAT started as a mere buzz on social media by BJP-affiliated handles became a hot political topic on Sunday, with almost all major parties in the State denouncing the idea of creating a new Union Territory of 'Kongu Nadu' by bifurcating Tamil Nadu.

While DMK leaders made public statements in response to questions from reporters, an AIADMK spokesperson, when contacted by TNIE, categorically said such ideas should be nipped in the bud.

Even BJP leaders distanced themselves from the idea and said there was no such proposal. But they remained wishy washy by claiming that if people wish for a bifurcation, then it is the duty of the Union government to execute it.

They did not elaborate on why the issue was raised when there was no popular demand from the people of the region. A report in a Tamil daily, which triggered the entire issue by its claim about the purported idea of the Union government, too did not cite any source for its information.

> BJP's aim is to give away the resources of Tamil Nadu to the North Indians. In Kongu region, North Indians now have a strong economic base in various areas..But this idea will never fructify
>
> Constantine Ravindran, DMK spokesperson

The paper claimed the Modi government developed the plan because it was angered by DMK leaders' recent use of the term 'Ondriya Arasu' to refer to it.

"It's just a news item that appeared in a daily," BJP treasurer SR Sekar told reporters at Tirupur, adding that the party has no such plans. However, he added that the BJP would discuss idea of Kongu Nadu in due course.

DMK leader Kanimozhi had said, "Tamil Nadu is now under a safe government. So there is no need for the people to harbour such worries. No one can bifurcate the State."

WON'T INVEST ANY MORE IN KERALA: KITEX CHAIRMAN

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Kochi

KITEX Group chairman Sabu M Jacob on Sunday said that he won't invest a single penny in Kerala any more and would not respond to Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan's statement that the current issue on Kitex was nothing, but an attempt to shame the state and should be seen as something done with intent.

"I will not respond to the chief minister's statement. My conscience does not allow me to invest any more penny in the state. In fact, we should thank the three MLAs and an MP of the Congress who showed us how to save crores of rupees in business by moving to another state," Sabu told reporters at Kochi airport on his return from Telangana, where he discussed Rs 1,000-crore investment project of Kitex with Telangana Government.

He said they would soon finalise the procedures for making an initial investment of Rs 1,000 crore in Telangana.

> I will not respond to the chief minister's statement. My conscience does not allow me to invest any more penny in the state
>
> Sabu M Jacob, Kitex Group chairman

"We were given a grand welcome in Telangana and the company will finalise the investment process in the next two weeks," he said, adding that the trip was an opportunity to understand the offers and incentives given to industries by other states to attract investment.

Sabu has called for a press meet on Monday to give further details on his visit and the investment plans of his firm in Telangana. On a query whether he was ready for talks with Kerala Government, he said he was always open for talks, but none from the state government had approached him so far.

"Even if they had sent a clerk, I would have held discussions. I am happy that I could employ thousands of people in Kerala with the Kitex project," he added.

READY TO ROLL

The three chariots — Nandighosa, Taladhwaja and Dwarpadalana — being readied in front of Jagannath Temple on the eve of Rath Yatra in Puri on Sunday | BISWANATH SWAIN

EXTORTION BID

Trio create false papers of Darshan, booked

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mysuru

A woman and two men have been booked for allegedly creating forged documents of actor Darshan Thoogudeepa, producer Umapathy Srinivas and a few of their friends, to cheat a close aide of the actor here.

The incident came to light on Sunday, when Darshan, along with his aide and friends, arrived at the ACP's office to give their statements. According to a complaint registered at Hebbal police station, Harsha Melanta, a close aide of Darshan who operates a hotel at Hebbal Industrial Area, alleged that a woman and two men had approached him in the guise of bank officials a month ago, claiming that he had forged documents of Umapathy and others to obtain a loan of Rs 25 crore from a bank in Bengaluru.

"They asked me to meet them on Hebbal Ring Road, where they handed me copies of a loan application and other documents which had my forged signature. They accused me of creating forged documents of properties belonging to celebrities, in the form of surety to obtain loan. They threatened that they would lodge a police complaint, and leak this to the media if I didn't pay them ₹25 lakh," stated Harsha in his complaint.

Based on the complaint, a case of cheating and extortion were registered against the three accused at Hebbal police station. Meanwhile, Darshan and Umapathy, along with the complainant and others, met DCP Pradeep Gunti and ACP Shivashankar. Darshan said, "Police are investigating the case and will share more details going forward."

Mentioning that investigation is under way, DCP (Law and Order) Pradeep Gunti said, "We have not taken anyone in custody and can't reveal much." A highly-placed source, however, confirmed that the accused - Aruna Kumari, Madhukeshava and Nandisha - have been taken into custody.

Sandalwood actor Darshan Thoogudeepa along with producer Umapathy Srinivas arrive at the ACP's office in Mysuru on Sunday | UDAYSHANKAR S

Tension in DJ Halli as police rescue six heads of cattle before slaughter

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

TENSION gripped DJ Halli on Sunday after members of the Gou Gyan Foundation, with the help of local police, rescued six heads of cattle that were allegedly brought by residents of the area to be slaughtered for an upcoming festival.

A volunteer reportedly went through the area and video-recorded the animals and shared the footage on social media before alerting the police. He had been doing the rounds for the last three days in various localities of DJ Halli, the Foundation said.

The volunteers said that they have identified more than 25 heads of cattle in the area that would allegedly be slaughtered.

A senior police officer said that a police team visited some houses in the area where cows had been tied up and later filed an FIR after inquiries. Further action will be taken based on the investigation, he added.

Earlier this year, the Governor had approved the Karnataka prevention of slaughter and preservation of cattle ordinance, 2020 and put a complete ban on slaughter, offering to be slaughtered, trade and transport for the purpose of slaughter of all cattle (cows, bulls, calves and buffaloes).

The ordinance is over and above the Karnataka Cattle Preservation Act 1964 which had made killing of cattle illegal, the volunteers said in their complaint.

CRIME PATROL

Cops launch manhunt for woman's killers

Bengaluru: Jnana Bharati police have launched a manhunt for suspects behind the murder of a home-alone woman, which took place on Saturday. Police said the preliminary investigation revealed that the assailants might have intended to rob her amidst the recent lockdown. Ranjitha (26), wife of Omkar, had cuts on her neck, when her brother-in-law found her dead in a pool of blood inside her house. Initially, what appeared like a case of suicide later turned out to be murder, after police and FSL experts conducted an inspection of the crime scene. **ENS**

19-year-old held for stealing bikes

Bengaluru: Annapurneshwarinagar police have arrested a notorious bike-lifter and seized seven vehicles worth Rs 7 lakh. He was caught red-handed when he was trying to move a bike near Kengeri, police said. The accused, Hanumanth Sabanna (19), is a daily-wage worker from Raichur. Police said Sabanna was addicted to alcohol and started stealing bikes to pay for his vice. He would roam around the area at night and spot parked bikes, and push them to his shed after breaking the handlock. He would take the bikes to his hometown and sell them. **ENS**

EXPRESS READ

PES students bag foreign offers

Bengaluru: Sarang Ravindra, a Computer Science student of PES University, has received an full-time offer from data tech company Confluent after completing an internship there. He will join the firm's office in London soon. Another Computer Science student, Jeevana Hegde, bagged an offer from Google as Cloud Customer Engineer, University Graduate Program. She will be part of a global team with Googlers from Australia, Japan and Asia Pacific, and is one of two selected from India. Nearly 1,283 students from across PESU campuses had virtual internships during the pandemic year with students receiving monthly stipends ranging from Rs 15,000 – Rs 87,000 with the highest offered being Rs 1.25 Lakh per month. As on date, 1,377 students from an eligible pool of 1,557 have bagged offers.

With help of railways, shipment sent to US, Europe from B'luru

S LALITHA @Bengaluru

THE surging diesel prices and the environment-friendly option that trains offer is now giving Railways a big edge over road transport. The world's largest shipping line on Saturday sent its first-ever consignment from Bengaluru to US, UK and Middle East markets via a container train from Whitefield.

At 3 pm on Saturday (July 10), shipping major Maersk, transported electrical and electronic items, machinery and garments on board the train from the inland container depot (ICD) at Whitefield. Items from Schneider Electric, Elemental Fixtures, Himalaya Drug, Balmer Lawrie-Van Leer and Coco Carbon were on board the train that is carrying 90 Twenty foot Equivalent Units (TEUs). TEU in shipping cargo terminology refers to the dimensions of the length of the container.

Group General Manager of the Bengaluru unit of Container Corporation of India Limited (CONCOR), a subsidiary of Indian Railways, that is running the train, Dr Anup Dayanand Sadhu, told *TNIE* that the first train was on its way currently to Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) in Mumbai.

"Items on board the train were mainly meant for US and UK markets and would be shipped from there. The increase in diesel cost is also a reason for business shifting to us." Sadhu said rail transport translated into good economics for exporters. "The road rate is ₹75,000 per 40 ft container (2 TEUs) while the CONCOR train rate is Rs 52,000 per 40 feet container between ICD and JNPT," he said.

Satyanarayana (right) and Dr Anup Dayanand Sadhu of CONCOR flag off the train carrying a consignment from Bengaluru to Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust in Mumbai

Money Krishnan, Location Manager, Karnataka, Maersk, told *TNIE*, "The main reason why we are making the switch is that it will help reduce the carbon footprint. On a single train, we can transport 90 TEUs for a distance of roughly 1,300 km. This just takes off 60 trailers off the road." There are other reasons too. "The increase in price of diesel and the 20 per cent cost reduction compared to road, are other reasons," he added.

Guntur girl Sirisha Bandla is 'Astronaut 004'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Guntur

SWASHBUCKLING entrepreneur Richard Branson hurtled into space, along with Sirisha Bandla, who was born in Tenali of Andhra Pradesh, and four others aboard his own winged rocket ship on Sunday in his boldest adventure yet, beating out fellow billionaire Jeff Bezos.

The nearly 71-year-old Branson and five crewmates from his Virgin Galactic space tourism company reached an altitude of about 53 miles (88 kilometers) over the New Mexico desert ' enough to experience three to four minutes of weightlessness and see the curvature of the Earth ' and then safely glided back home to a runway landing.

'Seventeen years of hard work to get us this far,' a jubilant Branson said as he congratulated his team on the trip back. Before her space odyssey, Sirisha Bandla signed the logbook as 'Astronaut 004'.

Sirisha's grandfather Dr Bandla Ragaiah, a resident of Piduguralla in Guntur district, who watched the live stream of the whole journey, said, "I'm so happy that I got to experience the journey of my granddaughter into space as an astronaut for the first time. All day I was a bit anxious and wished that she would return safely along with her fellow crew members. Her dream is to enter space. Today, watching her pursuing her dream is a moment of great joy for me and I'm so happy and proud of her."

CITY UNION BANK LIMITED
Credit Recovery and Management Department
Administrative Office : No. 24-B, Gandhi Nagar, Kumbakonam - 612 001. E-Mail id : crmd@cityunionbank.in, Ph : 0435-2432322, Fax : 0435-2431746

POSSESSION NOTICE (Immovable Property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of **City Union Bank Ltd.**, having its **Administrative Office** at **No.24-B, Gandhi Nagar, Kumbakonam - 612 001** and one of the Branch Offices at **No.18/23, Ground Floor, Abdul Rehman Road, W.E.A, Karol Bagh, New Delhi** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13(2) & (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice dated **14-10-2020** followed by paper publication dated **29-11-2020** calling upon the borrowers **1) M/s. SMGK Agro Export, at F-94, 2nd Floor, Phase - I, Ashok Vihar, New Delhi - 110052 . Also At, M/s. SMGK Agro Export at No.505, Prakash Deep Building, Tolstoy, New Delhi - 110001. 2) Mr. Hari Kishan Chawla, S/o. Inder Lal Chawla (In personal capacity as well as legal heir of Late Sneha Lata) at B-3, Navrachna Apartment, Near Karkarduma Court, East Arjun Nagar, New Delhi - 110092. 3) Mrs. Sakshi Kakkar W/o. Rohit Kakkar, at F-94, Second Floor, Ashok Vihar, Phase - I, New Delhi - 110052. 4) Mr. Gaurav Mehra S/o. Ashok Mehera, at H No.65, State Bank colony, Azadpur, New Delhi - 110033. 5) Mr. Rajneesh Chhabra, S/o. Diwan Chand Chhabra, at U-16,Uldhanpur, Shahdara, New Delhi - 110032. 6) Mrs. Veena Chhabra, W/o. Rajneesh Chhabra, at U-16, Uldhanpur, Shahdara, New Delhi - 110032. 7) Mr. Rohit Kakkar, S/o. Vijay Kakkar, at F-94, Second Floor, Ashok Vihar, Phase - I, New Delhi - 110052. 8) M/s. Chhabra Builders Pvt. Ltd. Represented by one of its Directors, Mr.Rajeesh Chhabra, at No.3, Shivaji Park, Shahdara, New Delhi - 110032. 9) Mr. Bhram Pal, S/o. Late Prem Singh, at Gali No.24, Village, Jagatpur Extension, Delhi - 110084. 10) Mr. Kiran Pal, S/o. Late Prem Singh, at Gali No.24, Village, Jagatpur Extension, Delhi - 110084. 11) Mr. Laksha Chawla, S/o. Hari Kishan Chawla (As legal heir of Late Sneha Lata) at B-3, Navrachna Apartment, Near Karkarduma Court, East Arjun Nagar, New Delhi - 110092** to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice being **Rs.24,47,08,691/- (Rupees Twenty Four Crore Forty Seven Lakh Eight Thousand Six Hundred and Ninety One Only)** within 60 days from the date of the said Notice with subsequent interest thereon from **01-10-2020** with monthly rests.

The borrowers above named having failed to repay the amount despite the receipt of the above referred statutory notice, NOTICE is hereby given to the borrowers above named and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the Property described herein below in exercise of the powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on this 09th day of July 2021.

The borrowers above named in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of City Union Bank Ltd. for an amount of **Rs. 26,41,46,430/-(Rupees Twenty Six Crore Forty One Lakh Forty Six Thousand Four Hundred and Thirty Only)** as on **18-06-2021** and interest thereon from **19-06-2021** till the repayment of entire dues.

The borrowers' attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Note: (1)That our **102-New Delhi-Karol Bagh Branch** has also extended Financial Assistance **(CUB OSL SPECIAL-BR:501812080056239)** dated **27-09-2019** requested by No.7 of you for which Nos.2 & 3 of you stood as Co-obligants and Nos. 9 & 10 of you stood as Guarantors for the facility for a total amount of **Rs. 3,25,00,000/-** at a ROI of **12%** and the balance outstanding as on **18-06-2021** is **Rs. 3,45,52,082/-.**

(2) That our **102-New Delhi-Karol Bagh Branch** has also extended Financial Assistance **(CUB OSL SPECIAL-BR:501812080063184)** dated **07-04-2020** requested by No.2 of you for which No.7 of you stood as Co-obligant for the facility for a total amount of **Rs. 2,00,00,000/-** at a ROI of **10%.** The same has been also classified as NPA on **29-02-2020** and the outstanding balance as on **18-06-2021** is **Rs. 2,32,49,647/-** plus further interest and penal interest of **2.00%** with monthly rests to be charged from **19-06-2021** till the date of realization.

3) That our **102-New Delhi-Karol Bagh Branch** has also extended Financial Assistance **(CUB OSL SPECIAL-BR:501812080050424)** dated **26-03-2019** requested by No.3 of you for which No.7 of you stood as Co-obligant and No. 2 of you stood as Guarantor for the facility for a total amount of **Rs. 2,00,50,000/-** at a ROI of **12%** and the balance outstanding as on **18-06-2021** is Rs. **2,34,43,544/-.**

Immovable Property Mortgaged to our Bank
(Property Owned by Mr. Rohit Kakkar, S/o. Vijay Kakkar)

Flat No.402, 4th Floor, Measuring About 1,350 Sq. Feet, East Facing Multistoried Residential Building Known as Soundarya Pranav Apartments, Site No.2, Old No.15/1a and 15/2a, earlier Bommanahalli CMC Katha No.7, present BBMP Katha No.457/357/268. Situated at Bilekahalli Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore - 560076.

Place : Bangalore, Date : 09-07-2021 **Authorised Officer**

Regd. Office : 149, T.S.R. (Big) Street, Kumbakonam, Thanjavur District, Tamil Nadu - 612 001, **CIN -** L65110TN1904PLC001287, **Telephone No.** 0435-2402322, **Fax :** 0435-2431746, **Website :** www.cityunionbank.com

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UNION BANK OF INDIA
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)
Akshayanagar Branch
No.35 DLF New Township, Akshayanagar, Nyanappanahalli, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South 560068

POSSESSION NOTICE (Rule 8(1) (For Immovable Properties))

Whereas, the under signed being the Authorised Officer of **Union Bank of India, Akshayanagar Branch,** under Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued demand notices dated calling upon the following Borrowers / Guarantors / Mortgagers to repay the amount mentioned in the notice with further interest / cost etc,. **within 60 days** from the date of the said notice. Details of demand notices such as date of issue and loan outstanding amount are mentioned against each borrower under.

1. Name of the Borrowers/Mortgagers: 1) Mr.K Giriswamy Prop: M/s Green Tree Family Restaurant and Guarantor Mrs. Shashikala K R W/o K Giriswamy
Demand notice dated : 09.04.2021 **Possession Notice Date : 09.07.2021**
Total amount mentioned in the notice: Rs.24,18,288.37 (Rupees Twenty Four Lakhs Eighteen Thousand Two Hundred and Eighty Eight and paisa Thirty Seven Only) and interest thereon.
Description of Secured Assets: All that piece and parcel of property belonging to Mr.K Giriswamy (Owner of the Property), bearing No.113, Katha No.217, Sy.No.239 situated at Mastenahalli Village, Hennagara Village Panchayath, Rajapura Dhakale, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore measuring 1200 Sft and bounded by: East by : Akkamahadevi's House, West by : Rudraiah Store, North by: Girish's House, South by: Road.

2. Name of the Borrowers/Mortgagers: 1) Mr.Hanumantha Rao Medarmetla 2) Mrs.Radha Rao M and Guarantor Mrs. Neeraja M
Demand notice dated : 09.04.2021 **Possession Notice Date : 09.07.2021**
Total amount mentioned in the notice: **Rs.59,57,975.24** (Rupees Fifty Nine Lakhs Fifty Seven Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventy Five and paise Twenty Four Only) and interest thereon.
Description of Secured Assets: All that piece and parcel of Residential Property belonging to Mr.Hanumantha Rao Medarmetla bearing Flat No.101, Sunrise Dwelling apartment, 1st Floor at Site No.23, Municipal No.1017(Old No.19/23) and Eastern portion of Site No.24, Municipal No.1015(old No.17/24), amalgamated BBMP Katha No.1017, formed in Property No.188 & 189, situated at Gururaja Layout, Doddanekkundi Village, K R Puram Hobli, Bangalore having super built up area of 1790 Sft and undivided share of 300 Sft and bounded by: East by : Road, West by : Private Property, North by: Road, South by: Private Property.

3. Name of the Borrowers/Mortgagers: 1. Mr.K Harish Kumar Prop:M/s SLN Tours & Travels and Guarantor Mrs.Shanthamma
Demand notice dated : 09.04.2021 **Possession Notice Date : 09.07.2021**
Total amount mentioned in the notice: **Rs.16,93,394** (Rupees Sixteen Lakhs Ninety Three Thousand Three Hundred and Ninety Four Only) and interest thereon.
Description of Secured Assets: All that piece and parcel of Residential property belonging to Mrs.Shanthamma (Owner of the Property), bearing Eastern Portion of old site no.233/43 New site no.746, Sy.No.40,41, & 42 situated at 10th cross, Channakeshavanagar, Singasandra, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South measuring 600 Sft and bounded by: East by : Road, West by : Remaining portion of Site no.233/43 new no.746, North by: Site no 210, South by: Site no 228.

4. Name of the Borrowers/Mortgagers: 1) Mr.D Sundar Raj 2) Mrs.Sagaya Stella W/o D Sundar Raj and Guarantor Mr.Prasanna Kumar
Demand notice dated : 09.04.2021 **Possession Notice Date : 09.07.2021**
Total amount mentioned in the notice: **Rs.6,76,376.72** (Rupees Six Lakhs Seventy Six Thousand Three Hundred and Seventy Six and paise Seventy Two Only) and interest thereon.
Description of Secured Assets: All that piece and parcel of Residential Property belonging to Mr.Mrs.A Sagaya Stella bearing No.21, old Kaneshumari No.283/48/2/21, New No.113 situated at Sonnathammanahalli Village, T C Palya , 8th Cross, K R Puram Hobli, Bangalore measuring 1890 Square Feet and bounded by East by : Property of S Rayappa, West by : Private Property, North by: Site No.12 & Private Property, South by: Road.

The above borrowers / Mortgagers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers / Guarantors / Mortgagers and the public in general that the under signed has taken symbolic possession of the properties described herein above in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said act read with the rule 8 of the said Rules on above dates. The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.
The Borrowers / Guarantors / Mortgagers and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of **Union Bank of India, Akshayanagar Branch,** for the amount mentioned against their names with further interest accrued thereon cost.

Date : 09.07.2021 **Sd/- Authorised Officer**
Place : Bangalore **Union Bank of India**

EDITORIAL

The extension of women's rights is the basic principle of all social progress

Charles Fourier

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

CURIOUS TIMING OF DRAFT LAW ON U.P. POPULATION CONTROL

Months before the election season begins, the Uttar Pradesh Law Commission released a draft population control Bill that seeks to incentivise families with a maximum of two children. By implication, it intends to penalise couples with more than two children by barring them from applying for government jobs as also contesting local body elections and restricting their eligibility for state-run welfare schemes. Though the draft immediately ran into a fusillade of protests from the opposition, there was nothing wrong with the proposal per se. UP is the most populous state in the country with a gross fertility rate of 2.7, according to the National Family Health Survey 4, so it makes good sense to proactively control its population growth. As Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in his Red Fort address in 2019, raising small families is itself a form of patriotism. However, the timing of the draft made the intention obvious.

That the priorities of a party in a state preparing to go to polls in eight months will be different as compared to those in another state where elections ended a few months ago is a given. It explains why Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma wants a gradual rollout of the two-child policy in his state, while his UP counterpart Yogi Adityanath appears to be in a hurry to push it through. The draft UP law is open for public comment only till July 19, and Minister Mohsin Raza said on record that it will subsequently be passed by the Assembly. Remember both states have sizable Muslim populations. Parallelly, Adityanath announced a new population policy to cut the fertility rate to 1.9 by 2030.

Given his government's sense of urgency, the population law in the making can be expected to become an important talking point for the BJP during the UP Assembly polls, just as the triple talaq Bill was a much debated legislation in the run-up to the 2019 Lok Sabha elections. Taken together with the love jihad law that is already in place in UP, the political discourse could get toxic. It's up to the BJP to convince people that the new law would be religion agnostic and applied evenly. Then alone would its slogan of *sabka saath, sabka vikas, sabka vishwas* carry conviction.

IMAGE MAKEOVER ATTEMPT BY BJP IN TN

The popular Asterix comic series begins with an origin story of the tiny village of Gaul in 50 BCE that holds out against Roman occupation. There are some in Tamil Nadu and Kerala who subscribe to a similar image of their states as 'lone' hold-outs against the BJP's expanding footprint. The truth, of course, is more complicated. In TN, for instance, the BJP managed to win seats in the state Assembly after a gap of 20 years, piggybacking on its partner AIADMK's ground support. This despite its own vote share having dipped from 2.86% in 2016 to 2.66% in 2021. In fact, it garnered a higher vote share in the 2019 parliamentary polls—3.66%—although that too was a decline from the 5.48% it managed in 2014. Yet, with representation in the Assembly, the party can no longer be derided in the state as it once might have been by some sections. That the BJP takes TN seriously would be no surprise to observers. Its parent organisation, the RSS, has been working in the state since the 1930s. DMK minister Palanivel Thiagarajan has, in fact, mentioned that the party has a larger support base than visible in TN, but fails because of its state leadership.

It is through the matter of leadership that the BJP is seeking to remake its image in TN, where it is largely seen as a Brahmin party. Through its elevation of Tamilisai Soundararajan (from state unit chief to Governor), L Murugan (to state chief and now Union minister) and former IPS officer K Annamalai (to state chief within 11 months of joining the party), it is clearly centring and wooing non-Brahmin communities into its fold. While Murugan, who belongs to an SC community, tried to broaden the party's appeal through a Vel Yatra for Lord Murugan, the party itself sought to woo another SC community—the Devendrakula Vellalars—by partially acceding to its demand to club seven sub-sects under a single name. The quick elevation of 37-year-old Annamalai, who is popular among a section of youngsters and hails from an influential OBC community dominant in western TN, signals the party's seriousness in ensuring that the lotus further blossoms in the state.

Neutralising Osama was a moral victory for the US but little else seems to have been achieved. It is making the same mistake it did in Iraq—a premature conflict termination

AMID U.S. EXIT, CHAOS ABOUNDS IN AFGHANISTAN

AMIT BANDRE

LT GEN SYED ATA HASNAIN (RETD)

Former Commander, Srinagar-based 15 Corps. Now Chancellor, Central University of Kashmir

The two-decade war in Afghanistan will be analysed from multiple angles in the years to come and mostly will be classified as a huge strategic failure on the part of the US and its allies. The inability of a superpower to turn things around and erase Afghanistan's reputed title— 'Graveyard of Empires'—will probably be seen as a failure of leadership, strategy and international cooperation to bring peace to a stricken land. The US defeat in Vietnam, classified by Richard Nixon as a campaign where strategic objectives were met, and the Soviet defeat in Afghanistan were both events of the Cold War. The adversaries then were clearly ranged against each other in terms of near-conventional conflict situations. The US failure in Afghanistan, however, is a virtual submission to the will of non-state actors who had limited resources to boot. A separate exploration of that domain will be made in due course once clarity on the current military situation is available.

In the last seven-eight years, a series of efforts were made to strengthen the anti-Taliban forces of the National Unity Government and provide assurance to the world that it could hold on and govern. An 'Afghan-led and Afghan-owned solution' was often quoted by experts as the ultimate counter. None of this seems to have worked, although some yet claim that it's too early to write off anyone in the emerging fight. The Afghan National Army (ANA) and National Police, in all over 3,00,000 strong, have not been short on courage. They have taken an average of almost 8,000 fatalities per year battling out the Taliban's various offensives in the last couple of years and this has been despite the air support provided by the US from within Afghanistan. The question most of us have been asking is whether the ANA has the capacity to battle on its own. The answer to this, even way back in 2013, was in the negative. Why were they not facilitated to achieve the capacity that was envisaged for them? It is because no one trusted their ability to fight with and secure the advanced military equipment that would have been made available to them. It was perceived that most of this equipment would fall into Taliban hands and facilitate it to take its fight to the allies. India was often urged to provide some heavy weapons, ammunition and helicopters. We have an enduring and positive relationship with the ANA and our political and diplomatic relationship with the Government of Afghanistan could not have been better. We trained Afghan officer cadets and soldiers in large numbers, provided weapons and even a few helicopters and used the soft power route to build the relationship with the people—eventually becoming a nation that the Afghans trusted the most. However, there was little that India could do in terms of provision of additional heavy weaponry in the face of an eventual relationship with the Taliban (catering to the contingency of it coming to power) or the safety and security of the US forces and its allies should these weapons fall to the Taliban.

It's not just the absence of heavy weapons; the government forces can still make a fight of it provided they have sound advice, some air support and assured logistics backing. They do not seem to have any of these. The Taliban too is not following the traditional tactics of targeting the urban centres. They appear to be aiming to first get hold of a maximum number of rural districts and cut off supply lines to the urban areas. An eventual suffering of the people and their displacement as refugees or internally displaced people should be expected, probably in large numbers, creating a humanitarian crisis of its own. Turbulence and chaos will unnerve the government and assist the Taliban, which is seeking just that.

> Withdrawing after 20 years may not necessarily be considered a premature termination of conflict by many. However, it is the comparative effectiveness of the US presence in the last many years that should be questioned

The US responded to the terrorist attacks on 9/11 with a revenge-seeking military operation—Enduring Freedom—and launched what came to be known as the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT). Neutralising Osama bin Laden, the perpetrator of 9/11, was a moral victory for the US but little else seems to have been achieved. Even a limited analysis will indicate that the US is perhaps making the same mistake it did in Iraq—a premature conflict termination. In the case of Iraq, it kept its eyes off the radar too thus enabling the rise of the Islamic State (IS), which continues to be a seasoned player even today. Withdrawing after 20 years may not necessarily be considered premature conflict termination by many. However, it is the comparative effectiveness of the US presence in the last many years that should be questioned. After the surge in strength of deployment grudgingly accepted by Barack Obama, it has always been a reluctant presence. This was amply evident to the Taliban, which knew ultimately it was a question of stamina.

It's a little late in the day for the US to make amends. The arrangement with the Taliban is an incomplete and unreliable one. The US perceives that the vacuum in Afghanistan could be filled by the Ashraf Ghani-led government in arrangement and agreement with the Taliban. But this is misconceived. Civil war conditions are already in the making and 120 districts are now under Taliban control. When the Taliban takes full control, despite the talks underway in Tehran between the Afghan factions, is a matter of time. There appears to be no agreement for an air base in Pakistan from where some US air support operations (including drones) could be launched to strengthen the resistance of the ANA. The ANA until it lasts out should get air support from the US fleet in the North West Indian Ocean.

The campaigns by the Soviets, and the US and its allies in Afghanistan started with big-time conventional operations and dwindled to the sub-conventional. The willingness to fight big long enough, addressing all areas simultaneously, holding territories captured and building the social and economic sectors with the help of the international community was the concept to follow. In all this, the one sensible decision that stands out was the Indian government's unwillingness to take the bait for deployment of the Indian Armed Forces in Afghanistan. You can expect to hear a lot more on Afghanistan from me in the days ahead.

(atahasnain@gmail.com)

FEMINIST JURISPRUDENCE & A UNIFORM CIVIL CODE

FAISAL C K

Under Secretary (Law) to the Government of Kerala

The judgment of Justice Bradley of the US Supreme Court in Bradwell vs Illinois (1872) exemplifies the myth of patriarchal societies that women are the weaker vessel: "Civil law, as well as nature herself, has always recognised the wide difference in the respective spheres and destinies of man and women. Man is, or should be, women's protector and defender. The natural and proper timidity and delicacy which belongs to the female sex evidently unfits it for many of the occupations of civil life." The US Supreme Court rectified its stand in Reed vs Reed (1971). Yet, in jurisdictions like India, patriarchy is still ruling the roost and personal laws play a vicious role in making women a marginalised lot.

Feminism endeavours to address the subjugation of women in social and domestic life. As Clare Dalton pointed out, feminism is a range of committed inquiry and activity dedicated first to describing women's subordination, exploring its nature and extent; second to asking both how, through what mechanisms, and why, for what complex and interwoven reasons, do women continue to occupy that position; and third to change the subordinated position of women. Feminist jurisprudence focuses on the role of law in perpetuating patriarchy and propounds reforms for demolishing male hegemony.

Nicola Lacey observed in her book *Unspeakable Subjects* (1998) that the public/private dichotomy allows the government to wash its hands of any responsibility for the state of the private world and depoliticises the disadvantages that inevitably spill over the alleged divide by affecting the position of the privately disadvantaged in the public world. This phenomenon is palpable in the case of religious personal laws in India. The state has assigned the family law to the private domain and almost shied away from its reform, which has insidiously affected the women.

The instances of bias against the woman in religious personal laws in India are plenty. The provisions of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, treat the Hindu joint family, traditionally led by a patriarch and lineage traced through exclusive male relations, as central to all matters of inheritance. The Act tries to retain property within the husband's family as far as possible when a woman dies childless. This results in unfair discrimination against the woman's natal family. Even when the woman has acquired the property through her skills and efforts, the husband's natal family has a stronger claim over it than her parents.

Both in Sunni and Shia law, a woman is given half the property share of the man. Polygamy and unilateral divorce by husband (talaq) are other severe anti-women provisions in Muslim Personal Law. As per Parsi Law, a non-Parsi woman who is either a wife or widow of a Parsi cannot inherit but their children can inherit. Children of a Parsi woman born to her from a non-Parsi man are not considered Parsis.

Hence, the Uniform Civil Code should essentially be conceived as a feminist agenda. Hansa Mehta, Minoo Masani and Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, pioneers of the feminist movement in India, stated in the Constituent Assembly that "one of the factors that has kept India back from advancing to nationhood has been the existence of personal laws based on religion, which keeps the nation divided into watertight compartments in many aspects of life. We are of the view that the Uniform Civil Code should be guaranteed to the Indian people within the period of five to ten years." They suggested that the clause regarding the Uniform Civil Code might be transferred from the Directive Principles to the Fundamental Rights. But, alas, their sagacity was voted down for the sake of expediency!

> Marriage, divorce, inheritance and other aspects of personal status are purely secular activities that should be synchronised with societal changes. ... A Uniform Civil Code should be independent of religious personal laws. The focal point should be justice, fairness and equity for women

Marriage, divorce, inheritance and other aspects of personal status are purely secular activities that should be synchronised with societal changes. The Hindu Code of 1955-56 departed from the *Puranic* notions of Hindu Law by borrowing some legal concepts even from Muslim Law, like the option of puberty and the contractual nature of marriage, deviating from the well-established Hindu notion of marriage as a sacrament. The fact that the reformed Hindu Law still retains some pockets of rules that treat women less favourably than men is not overlooked.

A Uniform Civil Code with the rules of just family law is to be framed. It should be independent of religious personal laws and contain only the best from every system. A draft Code should be proffered as the terms of reference for a national debate over the Uniform Civil Code. The focal point should be justice, fairness and equity for women. Such a move should not be misinterpreted as a transgression into religious or minority identity.

Allowing cultural practices as exemptions from liberal rights and freedoms, the use of the so-called cultural defence, can lead to women being denied constitutional protection. The cultural defence enables the rights of a group to prevail over the interests of female members of that group who are likely to have had little input into the formation of such norms. In India, the patriarchal community leaders have been using cultural defence as a bulwark against family law reforms and the Uniform Civil Code.

The Supreme Court observed in the Minerva Mills Case (1980): "A promise of a better tomorrow must be fulfilled today, a day after tomorrow it runs a risk of being conveniently forgotten. Indeed, so many tomorrows have come and gone without a leaf turning." The tale of the Uniform Civil Code, a forgotten constitutional promise, vindicates this axiom. The Uniform Civil Code is a promissory note drawn by our founding fathers in favour of the woman of India. The promissory note has now gained its maturity for encashment.

(Views are personal)
(faisal.chelengara10@gmail.com)

MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Loss to Ayurveda

The demise of Dr P K Warrier is an irreparable loss to Ayurveda and to the economically marginalised (A *doctor of masses, teacher of doctors and disciple of ideals*, July 11). The Kottakkal Arya Vaidya Sala is synonymous with Dr Warrier. He was a versatile doctor and a down-to-earth human being. Let his patriotic soul rest in peace.
SK Prakash, Chennai

Denied proper treatment

It is shocking to know that Stan Swamy was administered allopathic medicines by Ayurvedic practitioners while in jail (*Which leaders are 'good and true'?* July 11). He was suffering from many old-age ailments, was afflicted with Covid while in jail and denied proper treatment. It is tragic such things are occurring in a democratic country.
Dr M Haneef, Kottayam

Mourn for our country

It is not just a death, but slow murder—the murder of democracy and non-violent dissent. The Indian state's hands are stained with blood that not even all the perfumes of Arabia can erase. The authoritarian government is armed with an array of draconian laws such as sedition and the UAPA. These are of course days of mourning for us all. But instead of mourning for Stan Swamy, let us mourn for our beloved country that is fast losing its deep moral underpinnings.
K Varkey, Oddanchatram

Was he a martyr?

Why is Stan Swamy being projected as a martyr? His death is certainly sad, but he was accused of being one of central characters in the Bhima-Koregaon violence in the NIA's chargesheet. There is a good possibility that he was involved in anti-national activities.
R Narayanan, Bengaluru

Spreading negativity

There are certain people and groups that always talk ill of the system and the country, usually without giving any suggestions to improve the situation. Aren't there any good things happening in the nation? To hold anybody responsible for the death since he was jailed in a case does not make sense.
S Lakshmi, email

It's not charity they seek

This is with reference to *Don't ignore needs of the disabled* (July 8). Courts reprimanding governments over the pathetic facilities for people with disabilities is becoming common but there is no discernible change in the situation. We applaud them when they win laurels in the Paralympic Games but ignore them otherwise. It is not charity that they seek but the ability to lead their life with dignity on par with others.
Parthasarathy Mandadi, Tirupati

Kerala BJP punished

The PM has punished the Kerala unit of the BJP for its poor performance in the recent Assembly elections. Thank God that the solitary minister from the state was retained.
Aravindaksha Menon, Pattambi

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

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TWEETS OF THE DAY

Rajnath Singh @rajnathsingh
In the last seven years, on national security front, NDA govt under leadership of Modiji has worked in a very committed manner and created new paradigms of success.

Rahul Gandhi @RahulGandhi
Only the number of ministers (in the Union Cabibet) has increased, not that of vaccines

Sitaram Yechury @SitaramYechury
Modi govt's assaults on people's livelihoods is beyond criminality. Provide direct cash transfers & free food kits.

Taliban gains cast shadow on India's Af mission

50 diplomats, ITBP men evacuated from Kandahar consulate; MEA says temporary move, but monitoring situation

PUSHKAR BANAKAR @ New Delhi

A day after India pulled out its diplomats and security staff from its consulate in Kandahar in the wake of the Taliban's continued onslaught, government sources said New Delhi might have to close its embassy in Kabul if the situation continued to deteriorate.

Though the Afghan capital has not yet fallen to the Taliban, analysts had predicted the militia would capture the city within months of US troop withdrawal.

With the Taliban gaining control of new areas around Kandahar, India on Saturday night evacuated 50 diplomats and ITBP personnel from its consulate in the southern Afghan city. However, Ministry of External Affairs Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi on Sunday said the move was temporary and was taken given the intense fighting near Kandahar city.

"India is closely monitoring the evolving security situation in Afghanistan. The safety and security of our personnel is paramount. The Consulate General of India in Kandahar has not been closed. However, due to the intense fighting near Kandahar city, India-based personnel have been brought back for the time being. I want to emphasise that this is a purely temporary measure until the situation stabilises. The consulate continues to operate through our local staff members," Bagchi said.

According to sources, the diplomats, other staff members and the ITBP personnel were brought back in a special Indian Air Force plane and Pakistani airspace was not used during the operation.

Sources said officials are reviewing the highly volatile and fluid situation in the war-torn country on a daily basis and responding to any emerging challenges within 48 hours.

Bagchi said arrangements are being made to ensure continued delivery of visa and consular services through the country's embassy in Kabul. "As an important partner of Afghanistan's, India is committed to a peaceful, sovereign and democratic Afghanistan."

Should India shun Taliban? Experts divided

PUSHKAR BANAKAR @ New Delhi

MEDIA reports of a secret meeting between Indian foreign minister S Jaishankar and Taliban officials in Doha, Qatar, were quickly denied by the government.

This was not surprising as India has traditionally been opposed to the Pakistan-backed militant group and refused to recognise its government in Afghanistan between 1996 and 2001.

India, like the rest of the world except Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, severed all diplomatic ties with the country during the Taliban regime and had vocally supported the Northern Alliance government.

But with large swathes of Afghanistan falling into the hands of the Taliban, forcing India to evacuate its employees from the Kandahar consulate, and with intelligence reports saying the militants could overrun the country within six months to two years of the United States troop pullout, India finds itself in a fix given its huge economic and strategic investments there. *(See graphic)*

So how does India continue to protest its interests in a rapidly changing Afghan scenario? Opinions are expectedly divided but some feel it may not be a bad idea to engage with the Taliban.

Moscow-based analyst Andrew Korybko feels India's best bet is to enter into a dialogue with the Taliban. "India must enter into pragmatic discussions with the Taliban, even if secretly at first and perhaps facilitated by Russia. This could help both sides to better understand their new strategic calculations and help reduce the serious mistrust between them," Korybko said.

He said India was the only major actor in the region without public ties with the Taliban. Korybko faulted New Delhi with staking all of its strategy on the current Afghanistan regime, which in turn was predicated on the "mistaken prediction that the Pentagon would indefinitely remain in the country."

"It is in India's interests to enter into contact with them as soon as possible especially if they eventually return to power in Afghanistan and are cautiously welcomed by the international community for pragmatic reasons," he said.

But talking to the Taliban could mean stepping into a domestic political minefield. The militant group has given India much grief in the past with its role in the Indian Airlines flight IC-814 hijacking and several attacks on Indian installations in Afghanistan, including the embassy in 2008 that left an Indian army Brigadier and an IFS officer dead.

Engaging the Taliban can invite ridicule from opposition parties and also runs counter to the Bharatiya Janata Party's professed view of being tough on terrorist organisations.

"It is not that India has never engaged with the Taliban. Their engagement, in whatever capacity, had brought about a solution to the IC-814 crisis. Therefore, it is important for India to engage with the Taliban, more so now as there is a realistic and practical chance that the group might end up governing Afghanistan," said political analyst Nilanjan Mukhopadhyay.

But public engagement with the Taliban would put pressure on the government to start a dialogue with elements in Kashmir as the Kashmir-Pakistan-Taliban nexus was very much in place even today. "It is a very tricky situation for India but I am sure that the highest level of leadership is aware of it. But, it is important that the government does not completely shut its options with the Taliban," Mukhopadhyay said.

Washington-based research associate at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, Kriti Upadhyaya, was more circumspect. "There will definitely be ripple effects of the US withdrawal on India's foreign policy and we have already seen a flurry of activity on the diplomatic side with India reaching out to Iran, Pakistan and Russia," she said.

Upadhyaya felt New Delhi could remain relevant in Afghanistan by continuing development work in non-Taliban controlled areas.

"India can work with the Hazaras and the Tajiks and finally push for a UN peacekeeping mission in which India can send its own peacekeepers along with others. This is how India can have a presence in the war-torn country," Upadhyaya said.

> **It is important for India to engage with the Taliban, more so now as there is a realistic and practical chance that the group might end up governing Afghanistan** —Nilanjan Mukhopadhyay, political analyst

INDIA'S DEVELOPMENT WORK IN AFGHANISTAN

WORTH
Almost $3 billion

TYPES OF PROJECTS
SCHOOLS, ROADS & OTHER INFRASTRUCTURE LIKE DAMS & THE AFGHAN PARLIAMENT (IN PIC). OVER 55 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

COVERAGE
PROJECTS IN ALL 34 PROVINCES OF AFGHANISTAN

IMPORTANT PROJECTS
- Shatoot dam on Kabul river
- Restoration of Stor Palace
- Reconstruction of Salma Dam (India-Afghan Friendship Dam)
- Electricity line between Kabul and Pul-e-Khumri
- Finance of Afghan National Agriculture Sciences & Technology University
- Chimtala power sub-station
- Cricket stadium in Kandahar
- Many strategic roads on Afghan-Iran border

'SECURITY GRID TIGHT, NO NEED TO FEAR FOREIGN MILITANTS'

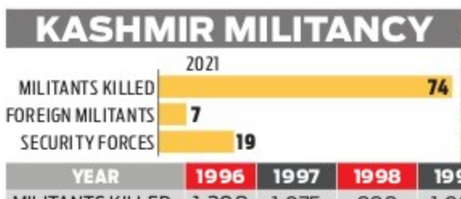
FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

THE prospects of a Taliban takeover of Afghanistan have spooked many as they fear that foreign militants may once again be pushed into Jammu and Kashmir, but security experts feel that there will not be a significant impact on the Kashmir situation.

Former state police chief S P Vaid said it is possible that militants fighting in Afghanistan will be diverted to Kashmir but he asserted that things had changed in the last 20 years and that there was a much better and foolproof security grid which will not make infiltration very easy.

"The ground situation has also changed. Border fencing and electronic surveillance equipment have been deployed along the line of control to foil any infiltration attempts from across the border," he said.

KASHMIR MmilitancY



YEAR	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
MILITANTS KILLED	1,209	1,075	999	1,082	1,520	2,020	1,707	1,494	976	917	591
FOREIGN MILITANTS	139	197	319	305	436	622	508	470	289	NA	NA
SECURITY FORCES	184	193	236	355	400	536	453	314	281	189	151

Asked about the large scale infiltration of foreign militants in the mid-1990s *(see graphic)*, Vaid said due to the Kargil war lot of army troops had been withdrawn from the LoC, leaving gaps. "But now those gaps don't exist and strong anti-infiltration measures have been put in place to foil infiltration attempts of," said.

Recently, Lt Gen D P Pandey, the commander of the Srinagar-based 15 Corps, said there had been zero infiltration of militants into Kashmir from across the LoC this year.

Retired general and former 15 Corps commander, Lt Gen Syed Ata Hasnain, said when the Soviets withdrew from Afghanistan in 1989, there was lot of chaos and a lot of foreign militants, including Afghans, Tajiks, Sudanese and Saudis, were pushed into Kashmir.

"This process started in 1991. The foreign militants who were left over from the Afghanistan war continued to infiltrate into J&K till 2001-02. But, the retired general said repeating 1991 in 2021 would not be possible.

"Whatever manpower Taliban has it will be busy in Afghanistan. Pakistan has a lot of interests in Afghanistan and for some time Pakistan will not see towards Kashmir," Lt. Gen Hasnain said.

Another former J&K police chief Kuldip Khoda said there has never been a high presence of Afghan militants in J&K. "There was very little presence of Afghans, the foreign militants are mostly Pakistanis," he said.

According to him, Taliban does not show much interest in Kashmir. "Whatever instances there have been in the past, they have been negligible and these, too, have been at the behest of the Pakistan army and the ISI," Khoda said.

COVID TRACKER

1.32% CASE FATALITY RATE	4,54,118 Active cases
2.25% NATIONAL POSITIVITY RATE	915 Fall in active cases
97.20% NATIONAL RECOVERY RATE	18,43,500 Tests on Saturday
Source: Union Health Ministry	37,23,367 Doses on Saturday

WOMEN POWER
Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman during a high tea she hosted for all women cabinet ministers on Sunday | PTI

Worrying: China is creating permanent structures in Ladakh

MAYANK SINGH @ New Delhi

THE apprehensions of a long haul along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh have started manifesting on the ground as the Chinese forces have been creating permanent structures in areas wherever the Peoples' Liberation Army troops are deployed. This comes after the Indian Air Force Chief confirmed that the Chinese are improving their air infrastructure.

Sources in the security establishment said that "the Chinese have been creating permanent structures, including those required for defences and habitation of the troops". In view of the Chinese move, India has also been building permanent defences and structures for habitation but these will take some time, added the source.

Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria had said in the first week of July that China had strengthened its infrastructure and improved the efficiency of its air operations.

Since May 2020, the PLA has moved its soldiers along the LAC at several points, forcing the Indian army to counter the Chinese move with its own deployments. Although there has been disengagement of troops and equipment from the north and suth banks of Pangong Tso since then, the standoff continuing in areas like Hot Spring, Gogra Post and Depsang.

Defence Analyst Maj-Gen (retd) S B Asthana calls it a furtherance of the Chinese 'incremental encroachment strategy'. "China, in the overall design under incremental encroachment strategy, is trying to enforce the infra development and its claim along its perception of LAC and in that context, is trying to settle down villages and make permanent structures so that over a period, its claim gets strengthened."

"We should also improve our infrastructure along our perception of LAC and also make permanent structures and settle down villages so that the Chinese don't succeed in their game plan," he suggested as a counter move.

India has ramped up road-building along the LAC and has also mobilised the troops with more than 50,000 personnel stationed in eastern Ladakh to thwart any move by the PLA men.

Baghel puts the ball in high command's court on CM change

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

AFTER Punjab, Congress is now facing trouble in Chhattisgarh unit with reports of tensions between Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel and his senior cabinet minister TS Singh Deo. Amid specualtions of leadership change in the state, Baghle met top leadership in national capital on Sunday and said he would step down if asked by the party high command.

His comments came amid reports that his cabinet minister is pressing for a decision on chief ministership based on '2.5-year-formula'.

However, both Baghel and other Congress leaders dismissed talks of change at the top in the state.

"If the Congress high command asks someone else to step in as chief minister of Chhattisgarh, it will be so. The high command instructed me to take oath (as CM), so I took the oath. The Congress has a three-fourth majority in Chhattisgarh. When they (high command) will say someone else will be the chief minister, then it will be so. Such agreements happen in a coalition government," he said regarding speculations about the understanding that he will be the CM just for two-and-a-half years.

Punia also said there was no such formula of changing chief ministers after a few years. "As Bhupesh Baghel ji also cleared, there is no such understanding or formula. The Congress party has a three-fourth majority in Chhattisgarh. Such an agreement happens in coalition governments," he said.

Baghel also met Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, state in-charge P L Punia and organisation incharge K C Venugopal.

Party sources said the Chhattisgarh CM is likely to play a key role in preparing the Congress organisation in Uttar Pradesh for the assembly polls next year with a focus on strategising and booth management.

Bhagel said that he was ready to take up responsibilities for the assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh next year. "If the high command gives me any responsibility for upcoming elections in UP, I will do it," he added.

Election for Congress president's post may be pushed to next year

RICHA SHARMA @ New Delhi

IT has been nearly two years since Sonia Gandhi took over as interim president of the Congress, but there seems to be no clarity on the next party chief. Elections to the post have been postponed thrice in the last one-and-half years and may be delayed further, with Rahul Gandhi looking to first completely overhaul the party organisation before a new chief is elected.

The elections were scheduled by June-end but were pushed back due to the Covid-19 situation in the country. Congress general secretary (orgnaisation) K C Venugopal had then stated that the deferment was only for two-three months.

However, party sources said there is no word on tentative dates to hold the elections. Rahul is focusing on a rejig in Pradesh Congress Committees and the AICC and also firefighting troubles in several state units ahead of assembly polls early next year, they said.

"We have a month-long monsoon session of Parliament starting next week and with several health experts signalling the possibility of a third Covid-19 wave by September-October, the party election is most likely to be pushed post assembly polls in Uttar Pradesh and Punjab, due by February next year," said a party source.

A senior Congress leader said Rahul wants to completely overhaul the organisation before someone takes over as party president. "There is still ambiguity on whether he (Rahul) will take over the reins of the party or it will be someone else," the leader said.

Congress units in over a dozen key states, including Haryana, Gujarat, Punjab, UP, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, are expected to see changes. Appointments are also due for national office bearers and ongoing tussle among state leadership in Rajasthan, Punjab, Chhattisgarh, Kerala, Karnataka, Uttarakhand and Himachal units needs to be addressed as well.

The demand for a full-time party chief has been pending since Rahul quit after 2019 Lok Sabha polls. As per the party constitution, the term of the Congress president will end in 2022 after a five-year tenure as Rahul was appointed in 2017.

A group of 23 senior party leaders have been repeatedly raking up the leadership vacuum and had met Sonia early this year to share their concerns over the party losing connect with common people.

EXPRESS READ

Report on Kumbh fake testing scam soon

Dehradun: The district administration of Haridwar is likely to submit the report of ongoing investigation in Kumbh fake Covid testing scam this week, said the officials involved in the probe. The report, once finalised, will be forwarded to the senior authorities in the government for further action. The inquiry was ordered on June 10.

LAND PROTEST

Police used water cannons to disperse a protest by Congress workers led by senior leader Digvijaya Singh opposing the Madhya Pradesh government's decision to allot land in an industrial estate to a Sangh affiliate

₹3.3K CRORE ALLOCATED FOR JAL JEEVAN MISSION IN ODISHA

Ahmedabad	37	30	Mumbai	33	28
Bhopal	33	25	Panaji	28	26
Jaipur	30	27	Patna	36	28
Amritsar	27	23	Lucknow	37	31
Chennai	35	27	Port Blair	30	27
Kolkata	33	28	Imphal	29	21
Srinagar	29	18	Chandigarh	34	28

KHELA HOBE IN COOPERATIVE SECTOR

- Cooperative societies have 50.5 million membership in Maharashtra
- In Punjab and West Bengal, BJP is looking to make headway into such bodies

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI, ANURAAG SINGH, HARPREET SINGH, RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR & PRANAB MONDAL
@Mumbai/Lucknow/Chandigarh/Patna/Kolkata

WHETHER the opposition parties' allegations that the setting up of a cooperation ministry, headed by home minister Amit Shah, is an attempt to undermine federalism is well founded or not is debatable, but it could give a leg-up to the Bharatiya Janata Party's attempts to make inroads in cooperative sectors where it is not very strong.

Generally, cooperative societies are influenced by whichever party is in power in a state. For instance, in Maharashtra, the Congress and the NCP dominate them, while the BJP has been a latecomer.

Gujarat has over 81,000 cooperative societies, which benefitted the Congress for decades but are now being controlled by the BJP. Assembly polls are due in the state late next year.

The political influence of cooperative societies stems from their enormous size and spatial coverage in the rural hinterland. Maharashtra has over 2 lakh cooperative societies with a membership of 50.5 million.

The influence also comes from their financial clout. Take for instance the recent scam in the Punjab and Maharashtra cooperative banks, the fraud is estimated at over ₹4,000 crore. Many feel it could be game on in cooperative societies.

MAHARASHTRA

The state has more than 200 cooperative sugar factories whose annual turnover is around ₹35,000 crore while the cooperative milk federation and allied businesses' annual turnovers are collectively more than ₹ 40,000 crore.

A political observer said the BJP has not been able to dismantle the stranglehold of the Congress-NCP in the cooperative network. "The cooperative sector is the soul of NCP chief Sharad Pawar's politics."

He said the BJP is heavily dependent on urban voters, who could be drifting away because of the handling of the Covid-19 pandemic. "If the BJP wants to come back to power then they have to find a new territory, the cooperative sector is one of them," he added.

Sanjeev Babar, a former CEO of the Maharashtra State Cooperative Sugar Federation, said the cooperative sector "ensures a steady flow of money to farmers and enables him to purchase seeds, start a business and pay for children's education. Farmers get a loan at reasonable rates and their interests are protected."

"The chairmen or directors of sugar factories handle large amounts of funds. So, when the Congress-NCP was in the opposition, the core rural vote remained loyal to their political leaders," Babar said.

The cooperative sector has nurtured several politicians, starting from the late chief minister Vasantdada Patil and incumbent deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar.

UTTAR PRADESH

The cooperative sector has largely been a fiefdom of Samajwadi Party patriarch Mulayam Singh Yadav's family. Its association with the sector started in 1977, when Yadav was the cooperative minister. During his three tenures as the CM, Yadav either kept the cooperative portfolio to himself or allocated it to younger brother Shivpal Singh Yadav.

But it was in September 2020 that the SP's stranglehold on cooperatives started declining. The BJP entered the sector in a major way with its candidates sweeping the polls for the UP Cooperative Land Development Bank, responsible for agricultural credit, by winning 293 of the 312 seats unopposed.

PUNJAB

The state societies are either controlled by the ruling Congress or the opposition Shiromani Akali Dal. The BJP stands nowhere, nor does it appear that it can influence the sector. An insider said the ruling political party ensures that their supporters are members of these societies.

An official said cooperative banks with 802 branches offer loans worth around ₹12,000 crore to farmers. The Punjab State Cooperative Development Federation has had politicians as its head. They include late CMs Darbara Singh, Zail Singh and Beant Singh, who was also a director of the Central Corporative Bank, Ludhiana.

WEST BENGAL

The Left Front in its 34-year rule never gave cooperatives much importance as they already had a strong cadre base in the rural areas. But Trinamool Congress supremo Mamata Banerjee, after wresting power in 2011, realized that cooperatives might be a useful tool to reach out the rural electorate. In 2013, she declared cooperative societies would not be empowered to attach the property of farmers defaulting in loan repay. "The creation of the cooperation ministry seems to be the BJP's attempt to gain a foothold in rural parts by using the cooperative financial structure as a tool," said a TMC leader.

MADHYA PRADESH

The cooperative sector was largely dominated by the Congress till 2003 but after the BJP's return, its people started replacing the Congress, particularly in the credit, distribution of agricultural inputs and marketing sectors.

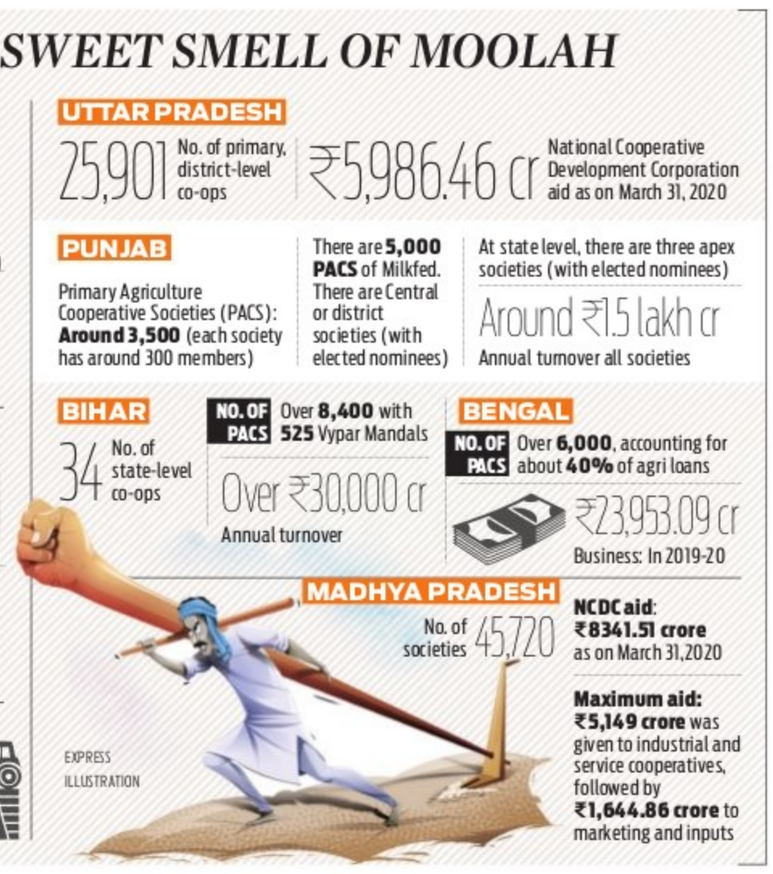
It was during senior cabinet minister Gopal Bhargava's tenure as cooperative minister between 2013 and 2018 that not only did the sector expand, but the BJP influence grew by leaps and bounds. A few months after toppling the Kamal Nath government, the Shivraj Singh Chouhan government passed the Cooperative Societies (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020, to allow MPs and MLAs to become chairmen and vice-chairmen of cooperatives.

BIHAR

There are 34 state level cooperative orgainsations in handloom, dairy, agriculture, fertilisers, seeds and fisheries and they have an annual turnover of about ₹30,000 crore.

Till 2005, the Lalu Prasad-led RJD had a strong influence on these societies. With the power shift, the JD-U, BJP and others have made inroads into them.

THE SWEET SMELL OF MOOLAH


MAHARASHTRA
200 Co-op sugar factories
₹35,000 cr Annual turnover
200 Co-op milk federations
₹40,000 cr Annual turnover
21,000 Agriculture credit societies
UTTAR PRADESH
25,901 No. of primary, district-level co-ops
₹5,986.46 cr National Cooperative Development Corporation aid as on March 31, 2020
PUNJAB
Primary Agriculture Cooperative Societies (PACS): Around 3,500 (each society has around 300 members)
There are 5,000 PACS of Milkfed. There are Central or district societies (with elected nominees)
At state level, there are three apex societies (with elected nominees)
Around ₹1.5 lakh cr Annual turnover all societies
BIHAR
34 No. of state-level co-ops
NO. OF PACS Over 8,400 with 525 Vypar Mandals
Over ₹30,000 cr Annual turnover
BENGAL
NO. OF PACS Over 6,000, accounting for about 40% of agri loans
₹23,953.09 cr Business: In 2019-20
MADHYA PRADESH
No. of societies 45,720
NCDC aid: ₹8341.51 crore as on March 31,2020
Maximum aid: ₹5,149 crore was given to industrial and service cooperatives, followed by ₹1,644.86 crore to marketing and inputs
EXPRESS ILLUSTRATION

An NIA member prepares for search at Lucknow's Dubagga area on Sunday | PTI

Two suspects with Qaeda links held in Uttar Pradesh

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Lucknow

WITH the arrest of two suspected terrorists of al-Qaeda's Indian arm on Sunday, the Uttar Pradesh Police on Sunday claimed to have foiled an alleged plot by the terror outfit to carry out serial blasts and lone-wolf attacks in various parts of the state.

After day-long searches in Dubagga and Mandiyaon areas in Lucknow's outskirts, the Anti Terror Squad arrested the two terror suspects, identified as Minhaz Ahmad (30) and Masiruddin alias Mushir (50).

Additional Director General (Law and Order) Prashant Kumar said the ATS team foiled the plot of the UP module of Ansar Ghazwat-ul-Hind to carry out serial terror attacks across the state, including Lucknow, before Independence Day. Incidentally, PM Narendra Modi is likely to visit Varanasi on July 15 for inaugurating development projects worth several crores.

"The arrested duo was among the three key members of the terror outfit's UP module, which has members in other parts of the state also. The two and their aides were being guided by their handler identified as Umar Al-Mandi, who was instructing them from Quetta and Peshawar in Pakistan," the ADG added.

Explosives, including IEDs made of pressure cookers, and a pistol were seized during the raids, Kumar said. "Search operations are on in other parts of the state by the ATS units along with local police to track and nab the remaining module members, including those from Lucknow and Kanpur."

As per the police, the preliminary questioning of the arrested men revealed that module was involved in radicalisation in Uttar Pradesh at the behest of Mandi, who heads the India operations of the terror outfit.

'Chirag has few options, will join Tejashwi soon'

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @Patna

THE meeting of Tejashwi Yadav's political aide Shayam Rajak with beleaguered LJP leader **Chirag Paswan** in Delhi on Saturday has led to many political observers asserting that it was now almost a settled fact that the two Young Turks would come together in Bihar.

They argue that the combine of Tejashwi and Chirag along with the leaders of other Mahagatvandhan allies, including CPI leader Kanhaiya Kumar, is preparing to take on the Nitish Kumar-led NDA in the state. Incidentally, both Tejashwi and Chirag have made it clear about their opposition to the JD-U chief.

"Chirag is now left with no other option but to align with a potent ally. Sooner or later, he will have to join hand with the anti-Nitish Kumar political front to take on the Bihar CM in politics," said Arun Kumar Pandey, a seasoned political observer. The duo coming together will certainly pose challenge to JD-U in particular and BJP in general, he added.

But Dr RK Verma, another political analyst, asserted the 'merger' of LJP and RJD is unlikely because of both the young leaders are ambitious. "But they can together out of political compulsion or because of political gain under one umbrella. And if it happens, their alliance will be not be easy to tackle."

Meanwhile, there is another talk that Chirag may later join the Mahagatvandhan in order to establish a place in the state after the split engineered by his uncle Pashupati Paras.

A day before meeting Chirag, Rajak spoke with RJD president Lalu Yadav in New Delhi in which the latter is said to have provided "tips" to bring Chirag into the Mahagatvandhan. On his part, Rajak described the meeting as personal, saying that he has a personal relationship with the family of late LJP leader Ram Vilas Paswan.

'Upset' Pankaja meets Modi, Nadda in Delhi

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @Mumbai

BJP leader Pankaja Munde met PM Narendra Modi and party chief JP Nadda on Sunday in Delhi amid reports that she was hurt by the non-inclusion of her sister in the NDA's expanded Union Cabinet.

Pankaja, the daughter of late BJP stalwart Gopinath Munde, was expecting a cabinet berth for Pritam who is a MP from the Beed district. "BJP does not want to give anything to the Munde family but they do not leave her too. After the report of open dissatisfaction against the BJP leadership, this must be an attempt by Nadda and Modi to pacify her ahead of the local elections," said a party insider.

Though Pankaja has claimed she would go with the party's decision, several leaders close to Pankaja have resigned.

ISIS module: Six arrested after NIA raids 7 locations in Kashmir

FAYAZ WANI @Srinagar

THE National Investigation Agency on Sunday raided seven locations in Kashmir in a case regarding online radicalisation by Islamic State in India and arrested six suspects, including the head of a Darul Uloom (Islamic seminary).

The NIA team accompanied by police and paramilitary personnel did simultaneous raids in Srinagar and Anantnag in south Kashmir.

The case was registered by NIA on June 29 under IPC and UAPA in connection with the conspiracy of the ISIS to radicalise and recruit youth to wage violent jihad against the Indian state, an NIA officer said, adding that an organised campaign was launched on the cyber space which is supplemented by on ground terror financing activities.

Sources said the NIA raided

the Darul Uloom at Nawab Bazar area in downtown Srinagar. "During the search of the Darul Uloom, NIA seized a laptop and some office records. They also arrested the head of the Darul Uloom."

During the raids at Pushroo, Sunsooma, and Achabal in Anantnag district, the NIA sleuths arrested six persons including a garment dealer, a chemist, a laboratory technician, two shopkeepers and the Darul Uloom head.

An NIA spokesperson said the multiple raids led to confiscation of incriminating documents and digital devices. The spokesperson added ISIS militants operating from various conflict zones along with those in India, by assuming pseudo-online identities, have created a network wherein ISIS-related propaganda material is disseminated for radicalising and recruiting new members.

"In this connection an India-centric online propaganda magazine 'the Voice of Hind' is published on monthly basis with an aim to incite and radicalise impressionable youth by projecting a skewed narrative to arouse a feeling of alienation and communal hatred," the spokesperson said.

The NIA raids took place a day after the J&K government sacked 11 government employees, including two sons of Hizbul chief Syed Salahuddin, for their alleged involvement in anti-national activities.

POPULATION

Ambitious U.P. policy to reduce fertility rate

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Lucknow

A day after the Uttar Pradesh Law Commission shared a draft population control bill to incentivise the two-child norm, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Sunday released an ambitious new Population Policy 2021-30, indicating how serious he is in addressing the matter.

The new population policy aims to bring down the gross fertility rate from 2.7 now to 2.1 by 2026 and 1.9 by 2030. The policy also has provisions to ensure healthcare for all and to pay special attention to pregnant women, infants, sick newborns and children who are severely malnourished.

Launching the 'Population Stability Fortnight' he said there should be adequate gap between births of two children to control population growth. If the gap is not adequate, their nutrition will be affected and the infant mortality rate and maternal mortality rate will be very difficult to control, he said.

UP's fertility rate was 3.3 in 2016 when the national average was 2.6. Due to sustained efforts, the state's fertility rate has come down to 2.7, while the national average is at 2.2. "Earlier efforts have yielded good results; further push is needed," he added. Under the new policy, efforts will be made to make contraceptives more accessible and provide a proper system for safe abortions. The state's maternal mortality rate, too, is down to 197 as against 258 in 2016, he pointed out.

Commission starts receiving grievances

The school service commission from Saturday started accepting complaints from teacher-job aspirants who were unhappy as their names didn't feature on the list of candidates awaiting interview calls. The commission will receive complaints for a duration of two weeks. Calcutta High Court has set the commission a deadline of 12 weeks from the receipt of the applications, said commission chairman Subha Shankar Sarkar. Calcutta High Court Justice Abhijit Ganguly said that the aggrieved candidates would have to submit their grievances individually to the commission, online or offline.

PRANAB MONDAL
Our correspondent in West Bengal
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KOLKATA DIARY

Remote islands of Sunderbans to get vaccines

Boats containing Covid-19 vaccines reached remote islands of Sunderbans two days ago where most residents are yet to be inoculated because of lack of awareness, shortage of doses and absence of internet connectivity. Four boats have been pressed into service to vaccinate potential super-spreaders such as migrant workers in 12 Sunderbans islands over the next few days, said an official of the South 24 Parganas district administration. The boats are stacked with vaccine vials and armed with WiFi connection. Internet connectivity is a must to run the vaccination because all recipients have to be registered on the CoWIN portal. The migrant workers, who will soon leave home and spread across the state or country for work, were the first to get the vaccines.

Terror suspects from Bangladesh arrested

The Special Task Force of Kolkata Police on Sunday arrested three men suspected to be members of Jamat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB), an outlawed terror outfit in the neighbouring country. They were identified as Najiur Rehman, Rabiul Islam and Sabbir. Police said the trio was living in Kolkata and feigning to be mosquito-net salesmen. "Documents related to the suspects' link with the JMB were found from their apartment and suspicious activities on their social media accounts were spotted. But we are yet to ascertain the time period of their stay here," said the police.

IIT Kharagpur urged to call back students

The students' senate of IIT Kharagpur appealed that the students facing resource constraints and were not being able to attend online classes be called back to the campus at the earliest. In response, the IIT authorities have said that they are working on a schedule for the return of students to the campus. Classes are being held on digital platforms as a precaution due to the prevailing Covid situation. Several representatives told the authorities during a meeting on July 5 that scores of students were facing financial constraints because of curbs on economic activities.

13 people injured after car rams into crowd at a Sunday market in St Florian, Austria.

GLOBAL WEATHER

LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	24	23	TDS	Los Angeles	29	19	SNY
Colombo	30	27	TDS	Melbourne	15	8	LC
Dhaka	32	27	TDS	Moscow	31	19	SNY
Dubai	42	34	SNY	New York	31	22	TDS
Houston	32	25	TDS	Singapore	29	26	TDS
Istanbul	30	22	SNY	Toronto	21	19	LR
London	19	15	TDS	Washington	34	25	LC

Xi, Kim vow to strengthen ties

Chinese prez and N Korean leader mark 60th anniversary of their countries' defence treaty

SEOUL

THE North Korean and Chinese leaders expressed their desire Sunday to further strengthen their ties as they exchanged messages marking the 60th anniversary of their countries' defence treaty.

In a message to Chinese President Xi Jinping, North Korean leader Kim Jong-un said it is 'the fixed stand" of his government to "ceaselessly develop the friendly and cooperative relations" between the countries, the official Korean Central News Agency said.

Xi said in his message that 'he is willing to provide greater happiness to the two countries ... by strengthening the strategic communication with (Kim) to properly control the direction of the advance of the China-(North Korea) relations and by steadily leading the relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries to a new stage,' KCNA said. North Korea has been expected to seek greater support from China, its major ally and aid benefactor, as it grapples with economic hardship exacerbated by the coronavirus pandemic and crippling US-led sanctions over its nuclear weapons programme.

Xi Jinping

Kim Jong-un

China, for its part, sees preventing a North Korean collapse as crucial to its security interests and would need to boost ties with North Korea and other traditional allies amid fierce rivalry with the United States, some experts say.

Kim said in his message that the bilateral treaty 'is displaying its stronger vitality in defending and propelling the socialist cause of the two countries ... now that the hostile forces become more desperate in their challenge and obstructive moves.' Under the 1961 treaty, North Korea and China are committed to offering one another immediate military and other aid in the event of an attack. North Korea-China ties go back to the 1930s, when Kim Il Sung, the grandfather of Kim Jong Un, led Korean guerrillas as they fought alongside Chinese soldiers against Japanese colonizers in northeastern China. The two countries established diplomatic relations in 1949, one year before North Korea launched a surprise attack on South Korea and started a three-year war that killed hundreds of thousands of people.

China fought alongside North Korea during the 1950-53 Korean War, while US-led UN forces supported South Korea. About 28,500 U.S. soldiers are still stationed in South Korea to deter potential aggression from North Korea. China doesn't deploy troops in North Korea. *AP*

Pope makes first appearance after intestinal surgery

Pope Francis leads the Sunday's Angelus prayer from the Gemelli Hospital in Rome on Sunday | AFP

Rome: Pope Francis on Sunday made his first public appearance since surgery last week, greeting well-wishers as he stood on a hospital balcony. Francis, 84, has been steadily on the mend, according to the Vatican, following his July 4 scheduled surgery to remove a portion of his large intestine. On Sunday, his voice sounded a bit weak as he greeted a small crowd outside Gemelli Polyclinic at noon. That is the hour when traditionally he would have appeared from a window at the Vatican overlooking St Peter's Square. Francis said he "very much felt your closeness and the support of your prayers." *AP*

Myanmar caught off guard as Covid cases surge, oxygen dwindles

BANGKOK

SOE WIN stood in line at a plant to buy oxygen for his grandmother, who is struggling with Covid symptoms.

"I have been waiting since 5 in the morning until 12 noon but I'm still in line. Oxygen is scarcer than money," said the resident of Yangon.

Consumed by a bitter and violent political struggle since the military seized power in February, Myanmar has been slow to wake up to a devastating surge in cases since mid-May.

It has left many of the sick like Soe Win's grandmother to suffer at home if they cannot find a bed at an army hospital, or prefer not to trust their care to the widely disliked government.

Under Aung San Suu Kyi, the civilian leader ousted by the military, Myanmar had weathered its second Covid surge beginning in August last year by severely restricting travel, sealing off Yangon and curbing election campaigning in virus hotspots where lockdowns were imposed. Suu Kyi appeared frequently on television with stern but empathetic entreaties to the public on how to deal with the situation. Vaccine supplies were secured from India and China. Suu Kyi's removal sparked widespread protests and medical workers spearheaded a civil disobedience movement that called on professionals and civil servants not to cooperate with the military-installed government. *AP*

HEAT WAVE BLANKETS U.S. AS FIRE RAGES IN SEVERAL STATES

SAN FRANCISCO

FIREFIGHTERS struggled to contain an exploding Northern California wildfire under blazing temperatures as another heat wave blanketed the west, prompting an excessive heat warning for inland and desert areas.

Death Valley in southeastern California's Mojave Desert reached 128 degrees Fahrenheit on Saturday, as per the National Weather Service's (NWS) reading at Furnace Creek.

About 483km northwest of the sizzling desert, the largest wildfire of the year in California was raging along the border with Nevada. The Beckwourth Complex Fire, a combination of two lightning-caused fires burning 72km north of Lake Tahoe, showed no sign of slowing its rush northeast from the Sierra Nevada forest region after doubling in size between Friday and Saturday.

Late Saturday, flames jumped Interstate 395 and threatened properties in Nevada's Washoe County. "Take steps to protect large animals and livestock," the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District tweeted. The blaze, which was only 8% contained, increased dramatically to 222 sqkm as firefighters sweltered in 100-degree temperatures.

It was one of several threatening homes across Western states that were expected to see triple-digit heat through the weekend as a high-pressure zone blankets the region.

Governor Gavin Newsom issued an emergency proclamation on Friday suspending rules to allow for more power capacity, and the ISO requested emergency assistance from other states. *AP*

STATE BANK OF INDIA
Stressed Assets Management Branch, Bengaluru

Authorised Officer's Details:
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Assistant General Manager (CLO-3)
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APPENDIX- II & IV-A
[See proviso to rule 8(6), 6(2) & 9(1)]
E-AUCTION SALE ON 29.07.2021
SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF MOVABLE & IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Movable & Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6), 6(2) & 9(1) of the Security Interest(Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive / Physical (whichever is applicable) possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of State Bank of India, the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on **29.07.2021** for recovery of **Rs. 24,67,11,112/-(Rupees Twenty four crore sixty seven lacs eleven thousand one hundred and twelve Only)** as on **05.07.2021** and further interest at contractual rate from 06.07.2021 with incidental expenses, costs, charges etc.due to the State Bank of India, the Secured Creditor, from the borrower(s): **M/s Seven Star Dhal Industries,** # 46 & 47, KIADB Industrial area, Dasarahosahalli, Bangarpet, Kolar District, represented by its partners: **(i) Mr. Syed Hidayathulla** s/o Late Syed Basheer Sahib, **(ii) Mr. Ihsanulla Hidayatulla** s/o Mr Syed Hidayatulla, **(iii) Mr. Vaseeulla Hidayatulla** s/o Syed Hidayatulla and the Guarantor(s) and Mortgager : **(i) Mr. Syed Hidayathulla** s/o Late Syed Basheer Sahib, **(ii) Mr. Ihsanulla Hidayatulla** s/o Mr Syed Hidayatulla, **(iii) Mr. Vaseeulla Hidayatulla** s/o Syed Hidayatulla **(iv) Mrs. Yasmeen Taj** w/o Mr Syed Hidayatulla, **(v) M/s Vaseeulla Modern Rice Mill,** By its Managing Partner, **Syed Hidayatulla.**
The reserve price, earnest money deposit and bid increment will be as under:

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTIES

(1)Tender No. SBI/SAMB/EA/CLO- 3/2021-22/02
ITEM: (A) Plant & Machinery:
Plant and machinery installed in the premises of M/s Seven Star Dhal Industries situated at plot No. 46 and 47 of Bangarpet Industrial Area carved out of Survey Nos. 120,122 and 132 Dasarahosalli Village, Robertsonpet Hobli, Bangarpet Taluk Kolar District.
LIST OF MACHINERIES:

S.N.	Particulars	Quantity
1	Aspirator from Milltech	One Unit
2	Machineries/spares lot comprising Bucket conveyors two numbers,M S Silo Elevated Bucket Conveyors with Huller unit, Filter unit, Four Units Bucket Conveyors, Dust Collector, Two UNITS of Mechanical Sieves.	One Lot
3	Machineries/spares Comprising of Parts of Sieve along with flatbed pulley line.	One Lot
4	Machineries/spares Comprising of M S Grain Silo along with Bucket conveyor line.	One Lot
5	Machineries/spares Comprising of Air Blower set.	One Lot
6	Machineries/spares lot Comprising of Roller pulleys, Geared motor, Gearbox and Motors.	One Lot

Reserve Price Rs.	Ernest Money Deposit (EMD) Rs.	Bid Increment Amount Rs.
4,00,000.00	40,000.00	5,000.00

ITEM: (B) Land & Building: **Property standing in the Name of Mr. Syed Hidayatulla, Mr. Vaseeulla Hidayatulla & Mr. Ihsanulla Hidayatulla Jointly.**
All the piece and parcel of Eastern portion of industrial plots and building constructed therin, bearing Plot No. 46 and 47 of Bangarpet Industrial Area carved out of Survey Nos.120, 122 and 132, of Dasarahosahalli Village, Robertsonpet Hobli, Bangarpet Taluk Kolar District, measuring East to West northern side 32.49 mtrs or 106.6ft Southern side 32 mtrs or 105ft, North to South eastern side 77.50 mtrs or 254.2.ft, western side 78 mtrs or 255.9ft. in all admeasuring 2507sq.mtrs or 26,984 sq.ft **bounded on the**: East by : Plot No.48, West by : Part of plot No. 46 and 47 sold by vendors to P. T. Amudhvalli, North by : Plot No. 58, South by : KIADB Road

Reserve Price Rs.	Ernest Money Deposit (EMD) Rs.	Bid Increment Amount Rs.
2,80,00,000.00	28,00,000.00	1,00,000.00

Item (A) Plant and Machinery & Item (B) Land & Building will be jointly auctioned

(2) Tender No. SBI/SAMB/EA/CLO- 3/2021-22/03
Property standing in the name of Mr. Syed Hidayatulla.
All that piece and parcel of Industrial Land and building on Plot No. 4-B1, measuring Eastern side 23.75 mtrs Western side 21.40 mtrs Northern side 41.50 mtrs Southern side 44.00 mtrs totally measuring 955.00 sq.mtrs or 10276 sq.ft, formed out of Industrial Area Survey Nos. 119 and 123 (Part), Situated at Dasarahosahalli Village, Robertsonpet Hobli, Bangarpet Taluk Kolar District, (KIADB Industrial Area), with built up area measuring 10 squares, and **bounded on the** : East by : KIADB land, West by : KIADB Road, North by : Plot No. 4-B, South by : Plot No. 4.

Reserve Price Rs.	Ernest Money Deposit (EMD) Rs.	Bid Increment Amount Rs.
1,14,00,000.00	11,40,000.00	1,00,000.00

(3) Tender No. SBI/SAMB/EA/CLO-3 /2021-22/ 04
Property standing in the name of M/s. Vaseeulla Modern Rice Mill:
All that piece and parcel of the Building and premises constructed on Site No. 50, measuring East to West 30ft, North to South 100ft. in all admeasuring 3000 sq.ft bearing old Municipal Khata No. 2054 and present Municipal Khata No. 30/2829/27/2054, Situated at A.P.M.C. Yard Bangarpet Town, coming under limits of Town Municipal Council, Bangarpet and **bounded on the:** East by : Site No. 49, West by : Site No. 51, North by : 4th Cross Road, South by :Parking area in the Market Yard.

Reserve Price Rs.	Ernest Money Deposit (EMD) Rs.	Bid Increment Amount Rs.
35,00,000.00	3,50,000.00	50,000.00

(4) Tender No. SBI/SAMB/EA/CLO-3 /2021-22/ 05
Property standing in the name of Mr. Vaseeulla:
All that piece and parcel of Vacant land measuring East to West Northern side 220ft Southern side 219ft, and North to South Eastern side 48ft, Western side 100 ft.in all admeasuring 16,243 sqft formed out of Indstrial Survey No. 124 and 125 and Plot Nos. 5A, 5B, 5E2, and 5F1 situated at Dasarahosahalli Village, Robertsonpet Hobli, Bangarpet Taluk Kolar District, **bounded on the** : East by : Plot No.5C and 5F2, West by :KIADB Land and Plot No. 5E1, North by : Remaining portion of Vendor in same plot nos., South by : P.W.D. Road

Reserve Price Rs.	Ernest Money Deposit (EMD) Rs.	Bid Increment Amount Rs.
1,46,00,000.00	14,60,000.00	1,00,000.00

(5) Tender No. SBI/SAMB/EA/CLO-3 /2021-22/06
Property standing in the name of Mrs. Yasmeen Taj
(i) Building and premises on site No-48 measuring East to West 40 feet North to South 30 feet totally measuring 1200 Squre feet bearing old Municipal Khata No 136/2918 present Khata No 38/2918,137/2419/138/2920.
(ii) Building and premises on site No- 49 measuring East to West 40 feet North to South Eastern side 33 feet western side 28 feet totally measuring 1220 Squre feet bearing old Muncipal Khata No 137/2919 present town Muncipal Khata No 136/2918,137/2419/138/2920.
(iii)Building and premises on Site No 50 measuring East to West 40 feet North to South 30 feet totally measuring 1200 Squre feet bearing Muncipal Khata No. 138/2920 present Town Muncipal Khata No. 136/2918,137/2419/138/2920.
No (i) to (iii) are formed out of alienated Survey No 117 and 118 situated at Sanjay Gandhinagar vicinity (Kareemkhan Layout) Bangarpet Town within limits T.M.C Bangarpet having 13 Squres constructed area with amenities . and bounded on the : EAST BY: 25 feet width Road. West by: Narrowgage Railway Line, North by: Site No.47 of Syed Vaseeulla South by: part of site No 50

Reserve Price Rs.	Ernest Money Deposit (EMD) Rs.	Bid Increment Amount Rs.
1,56,00,000.00	15,60,000.00	5,00,000.00

(6) Tender No. SBI/SAMB/EA/CLO-3/2021-22/07
Property standing in the name of Mrs. Yasmeen Taj:
All the piece and parcel of Residential Vacant site bearing No. 50, measuring East to West 40ft, North to South Eastern side 32ft, Western side 26ft, totally measuring 1160sq.ft, bearing part of Muncipal Khata No. 138/2920 formed out of alienated Survey No. 117 and 181 situated at Sanjay Gandhi Nagar Vicinity (Kareem Khan Lay-out) Bangarpet Town, coming within limits of T.M.C., Bangarpet,and **bounded on the**: East by : 25ft. width Road, West by : Narrow Gauge Railway Line, North by : Part of Site No.50 of Purchaser, South by :Private property.

Reserve Price Rs.	Ernest Money Deposit (EMD) Rs.	Bid Increment Amount Rs.
50,00,000.00	5,00,000.00	50,000.00

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp and https://bankeauctions.com and Secured Creditor's website i.e. www.sbi.co.in & www.tenders.gov.in
Date : 05.07.2021
Place: Bengaluru.
Sd/-
(Nagmani Sinha)
Authorized Officer

STATE BANK OF INDIA
Stressed Assets Management Branch, Bengaluru

Authorised Officer's Details:
Name:**Sri Nagmani Sinha**
Assistant General Manager (CLO-3)
E-mail Id: nagmani.sinha@sbi.co.in
Mobile No: **8826616503**
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Address of the Branch: 2nd Floor, Office complex Building, SBI, LHO Campus, No.65, St.Mark's Road, Bengaluru 450 001
Contact : Sri Ratan Kumar Sinha
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Telephone: 080 -25943473/3484 , Fax: 080-22225203
E-mail Id: sbi.04209@sbi.co.in

APPENDIX- II & IV-A
[See proviso to rule 8(6) & 6(2)]
E-AUCTION SALE ON 12.08.2021
SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF MOVABLE & IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Movable & Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) & 6(2) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described movable and immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive / Physical (whichever is applicable) possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of State Bank of India, the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis on **12.08.2021** for recovery of **Rs. 67,00,47,976/-(Rupees Sixty seven crore forty seven thousand nine hundred and seventy six Only)** as on **05.07.2021** and further interest at contractual rate from **06.07.2021** with incidental expenses, costs, charges etc.due to the State Bank of India, the Secured Creditor, from the borrowers : **M/s Vaseeulla Modern Rice Mill LLP,** No. B-3 & 4, KIADB Industrial Area, KGF Main Road, Dasarahosahalli, Bangarpet - 563 114, Kolar District, represented by its partners: **(i) Mr. Syed Hidayathulla** s/o Late Syed Basheer Sahib, **(ii) Mr. Syed H. Vaseeulla** s/o Syed Hidayatulla and the Guarantor(s) and Mortgager : **(i) Mr. Syed Hidayathulla** s/o Late Syed Basheer Sahib, **(ii) Mrs. Yasmeen Taj** w/o Mr Syed Hidayatulla,
The reserve price, earnest money deposit and bid increment will be as under:

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTIES

A) Plant & Machinery:
ITEM: 1
Tender No. SBI/SAMB/EA/CLO- 3/2021-22/08:
Plant and machinery installed in the premises of M/s Vaseeulla Modern Rice Mill (LLP) situated at plot No. 3B and 3C, KIADB Bangarpet Industrial Area, Survey No. 119 of Dasarahosalli Village, Robertsonpet Hobli, Bangarpet Taluk Kolar District.

LIST OF MACHINERIES

	Rice Mill - A
1	Paddy Cleaning, Destoning Machineries with necessary Motor, Elevator conveyors, Stage hoppers
2	Husk remover and Separator Machineries together with Elevator conveyors, Stage hoppers
3	Rice Whitener equipment's in three stages with necessary pipelines, complete with stage Hopper and Elevator Conveyors.
4	Rice Polishing (Silky) machineries with necessary Blowers, pipelines, complete with Elevator Conveyors. Stage hoppers
5	Rice Thickness and length Grinder machine provided with Elevator. Stage hoppers
6	Colour Sorting machines with Elevators and necessary Bunker including Bagging line, Stage hoppers
7	Other accessories including Electric Control Panel and Steel support Structure for installation of Plant Machineries. Grain Bunkers, etc.
	Rice Mill - B
1	Paddy Cleaning and De-stoner Machineries with necessary Motor, Elevator conveyors, Stage hoppers
2	Husk remover and Separator Machineries together with Elevator conveyors, Stage hoppers
3	Rice Whitener equipment's in three stages with necessary pipelines, complete with Hopper and Elevator Conveyors. Stage hoppers
4	Rice Thickness and length Grinder machine provided with Elevator including Stage hoppers
5	Colour Sorting machine stage - 2 with Elevators and necessary Bunker including Bagging line as well stage hoppers
6	Rice Polishing (Silky) machinery with necessary Blowers, pipelines, complete with Elevator Conveyors and Rice Bunkers for storage of materials at different stages
7	Other accessories including Electric Control Panel and Steel support Structure for installation of Plant Machineries. Grain Bunkers, etc.
	Rice Mill - C
1	Paddy Cleaning and De-stoner Machineries with necessary Motor, Elevator conveyors
2	Separator machines with Elevating conveyors
3	Rice Whitener equipment's in three stages with polishing together with necessary pipelines complete with Stage Hoppers and Elevator Conveyor
4	Rice Thickness and length Grinder machine provided with Elevator including Stage hoppers
5	Colour Sorting machine stage - 2 with Elevators and necessary Bunker including Bagging line as well stage hoppers
6	Other accessories including Electric Control Panel and Steel support Structure for installation of Plant Machineries. Grain Bunkers, etc.
	Rice Mill - D
1	Paddy Cleaning and De-stoner Machineries with necessary Motor, Stage hoppers and Elevator conveyors
2	Husk remover & Separator Machineries, Stage hoppers together with Elevator conveyors
3	Rice Whitener equipment's in three stages + Polishing (Silky) together with necessary pipelines, complete with Stage Hopper and Elevator Conveyors with Bunker
4	Colour Sorting machine stage - 2 with Elevators and necessary Stage hoppers, Bunker including Bagging line
5	Rice Sizer including Thickness and length Grinder machine provided with Elevator and Stage hoppers.
6	Elevators and conveyors along with Pipelines for transportation of Rice mill Dust, Rice Bran, broken rice etc.
7	Other accessories including Electric Control Panel, MS Silos for Grain storage and Steel Structure for installation of Plant Machineries. 5 Nos. Compressors with drier and air tanks.
	Boiler section & Other Misc. Machineries - E
1	Oil fired Steam Boiler with modification for other fuel usage, Fuel handling system, Blower, Chimney, Ash collector, necessary Pipelines for Water and Steam along with support structure, water softening unit. Oil tanks Necessary Material handling systems including MS support structures wherever required as per design.
2	Two numbers Paddy drying Unit in four stages + Paddy cleaner + MS Silos with necessary Elevators & other material handling systems, water tank. Grain Storage stage Bunkers, Electrical panel etc., complete.
3	Generator 250KVA
4	Transformer 1000KVA

Reserve Price Rs.	Ernest Money Deposit (EMD) Rs.	Bid Increment Amount Rs.
7,53,00,000.00	75,30,000.00	2,00,000.00

(B) Land & Building:
Item 2:
Tender No. SBI/SAMB/EA/CLO- 3/2021-22/09:
All the piece and parcel of Industrial land and building on Plot No. 3B and 3C of Bangarpet Industrial Area situated in Sy. No. 119 of Dasarahosahalli Village, Robertsonpet Hobli, Bangarpet Taluk, Kolar District, containing by ad measurement 15943 sq. mtrs standing in the name of Mr. Syed Hidayathulla S/o. Late Syed Basheer Sab, Vide sale deed registered as Document No. BPT-1-02408-2003-04 in CD No. BPTD 7 dated 26.07.2004 in the office of Sub Registrar of Bangarpet, **bounded on the**: East by : KIADB Road, West by : Plot No. 2A & 3, North by : KIADB Road, South by : Plot No. 3 & 3A.

Reserve Price Rs.	Ernest Money Deposit (EMD) Rs.	Bid Increment Amount Rs.
15,90,00,000.00	1,59,00,000.00	2,00,000.00

Item 3:
Tender No. SBI/SAMB/EA/CLO- 3/2021-22/10:
All that piece and parcel of Zinc-Sheet-Roofed Building bearing Plot No.58-B of KIADB Bangarpet Industrial Area carved out of Sy. Nos. 135 and 136 of Dasarahosahalli Village, Robertsonpet Hobli, Bangarpet Taluk Kolar District, measuring Eastern Side : 25 mtrs or 82 feet, Western Side : 25 mtrs or 82 feet, Northern Side : 51 mtrs or 167 feet, Southern Side : 51 mtrs or 167 feet, totally 13,694 Sq.feet standing in the name of Mr.Syed Hidayathulla S/o. Late Syed Basheer Sab, vide sale deed registered as Document No.-BPT-1-01715-2014-15 in BPTD224 dated 02.06.2014 in the Office of the Sub Registrar of Bangarpet and **bounded on the** : East by : Plot No. 57, West by : Road, North by : Plot No. 58-C, South by : Plot No. 58-D.

Reserve Price Rs.	Ernest Money Deposit (EMD) Rs.	Bid Increment Amount Rs.
1,80,00,000.00	18,00,000.00	1,00,000.00

Item 4:
Tender No. SBI/SAMB/EA/CLO- 3/2021-22/11:
All that piece and parcel of converted Land with a commercial building constructed thereon bearing Plot No. 44 of Bangarpet Industrial Area situated in Sy. No. 122 and 123 with in Village Limits of Dasarahosahalli Village, Robertsonpet Hobli, Bangarpet Taluk Kolar District, containing admeasuring 2,205 sq. mtrs standing in the name of Mr. Syed Hidayathulla S/o. Late Syed Basheer Sab, vide sale deed registered as Document No. BPT-1-00405-2013-14 in CD No. BPTD204 dated 16.04.2013 in the Office of the Sub Registrar of Bangarpet. **Bounded on the** : East by : Plot No. 43, West by : KIADB Road, North by : KIADB Road, South by : Plot No. 29 & 30 (Part).

Reserve Price Rs.	Ernest Money Deposit (EMD) Rs.	Bid Increment Amount Rs.
2,90,00,000.00	29,00,000.00	1,00,000.00

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp and https://bankeauctions.com and Secured Creditor's website i.e. www.sbi.co.in & www.tenders.gov.in
Date : 05.07.2021
Place: Bengaluru.
Sd/-
(Nagmani Sinha)
Authorized Officer

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› THEODORE ROOSEVELT

Good credit scores in bad times fetch brownie points

A credit score is also the first factor that lenders consider before deciding on their borrowers' credibility and a score closer to 900 can get you better deals

MOVING UP THE RISK LADDER

Housing Loans	% share in Portfolio Outstanding (₹ K Cr) (Value)				% share in Active Loans (Lakh) (Volume)			
Credit Score Band	Mar-20	Jun-20	Sep-20	Dec-20	Mar-20	Jun-20	Sep-20	Dec-20
Very Low Risk	58.3%	55.1%	53.5%	53.8%	52.8%	50.6%	49.2%	49.4%
Low Risk	16.7%	17.5%	18.4%	17.1%	16.4%	17.7%	19.0%	17.5%
Medium Risk	8.3%	8.9%	9.6%	8.9%	9.6%	10.0%	11.1%	10.1%
High Risk	10.7%	11.9%	11.3%	12.8%	12.8%	12.9%	11.6%	13.8%
Very High Risk	6.0%	6.5%	7.1%	7.4%	8.4%	8.8%	9.1%	9.2%

Personal Loans	% share in Portfolio Outstanding (₹ K Cr) (Value)				% share in Active Loans (Lakh) (Volume)			
Credit Score Band	Mar-20	Jun-20	Sep-20	Dec-20	Mar-20	Jun-20	Sep-20	Dec-20
Very Low Risk	50.7%	48.4%	47.2%	47.4%	42.6%	38.6%	37.4%	36.1%
Low Risk	20.3%	19.7%	20.5%	19.7%	21.8%	17.8%	19.1%	18.1%
Medium Risk	9.7%	10.2%	10.3%	9.2%	9.4%	10.1%	10.0%	8.8%
High Risk	11.8%	13.1%	12.6%	13.2%	15.0%	19.5%	16.9%	17.6%
Very High Risk	7.5%	8.5%	9.4%	10.5%	11.2%	14.1%	16.6%	19.4%

Two Wheeler Loans	% share in Portfolio Outstanding (₹ K Cr) (Value)				% share in Active Loans (Lakh) (Volume)			
Credit Score Band	Mar-20	Jun-20	Sep-20	Dec-20	Mar-20	Jun-20	Sep-20	Dec-20
Very Low Risk	38.8%	31.9%	28.6%	26.7%	40.5%	34.8%	32.1%	29.7%
Low Risk	23.6%	23.9%	24.5%	20.2%	20.4%	20.6%	21.7%	18.1%
Medium Risk	11.9%	13.1%	13.6%	14.9%	11.3%	12.3%	12.8%	14.3%
High Risk	12.0%	16.0%	18.1%	19.3%	14.0%	17.2%	18.4%	20.1%
Very High Risk	13.6%	15.1%	15.3%	18.8%	13.8%	15.1%	15.0%	17.8%

Auto Loans (Incl. Used Car Loans)	% share in Portfolio Outstanding (₹ K Cr) (Value)				% share in Active Loans (Lakh) (Volume)			
Credit Score Band	Mar-20	Jun-20	Sep-20	Dec-20	Mar-20	Jun-20	Sep-20	Dec-20
Very Low Risk	40.8%	38.5%	38.8%	40.6%	40.5%	38.5%	38.4%	40.4%
Low Risk	22.8%	22.7%	22.3%	20.4%	20.8%	21.2%	21.2%	18.5%
Medium Risk	12.0%	13.0%	13.3%	10.7%	11.7%	12.6%	13.4%	10.7%
High Risk	14.8%	15.5%	14.8%	17.0%	15.7%	15.8%	14.9%	17.7%
Very High Risk	9.6%	10.4%	10.8%	11.4%	11.2%	11.9%	12.1%	12.7%

Source: CRIF High Mark

SESA SEN @New Delhi

A credit score, though it has been around for a while, has become of the utmost importance with the outbreak of the devastating coronavirus pandemic. Thousands have been rendered jobless and many have suffered income losses due to salary cuts and the shutdown of businesses, which has led to a spike in defaults on unsecured loans or even delays in equated monthly installment (EMIs). Consequently, their credit scores took a hit and these borrowers are now having a hard time getting new loans.

In fact, new retail borrowers are often being isolated since banks are scrutinizing their creditworthiness a lot more these days. And even those that are able to access loans are missing out on getting the cheapest interest rates.

"As a convenient financing option, a personal loan helps one meet their urgent or lifestyle needs-a medical emergency, college fees, a vacation trip, or an expensive gadget etc. However, as it is unsecured, the lender needs to be sure of the creditworthiness of the borrower. Hence, it is good to maintain a consistent credit history so that you can access credit easily whenever the situation demands it," explained Satyam Kumar, CEO and Co-founder of LoanTap.

Between January and May 2021, the digital lender witnessed a 120 per cent growth in loan applications compared to the same period last year and disbursed personal loans worth ₹105 crore during the period. "However, with this growing demand, we have started risk-based pricing," he added.

Of the existing portfolio, the new-age lender recorded a 3 per cent slippage from the standard to the irregular account since a significant number of borrowers have either had to deal with large Covid-related medical bills or had their non-essentials businesses shut during lockdowns, denting cash flow.

But setting aside keeping up a good credit score, a large chunk of the population still does not know what credit scores are or the fact that they have one. They only learn this key bit of information when suddenly, one day, a bank rejects their loan application and tells them it is because of their low credit score.

What is a credit score?

A credit score is a three-digit numeric summary of your credit history that falls in the range of 300-900. This is determined by the Credit Information Bureau (India) Limited (CIBIL) based on your past transactions with financial institutions. CIBIL is a credit rating agency and there are other bureaus such as CRIF High Mark, Equifax, and Experian that also serve to assess the creditworthiness of potential borrowers.

A credit score is also the first factor that lenders consider before deciding on their borrowers' credibility and a score closer to 900 can get you better deals on credit cards and personal loans. Generally, lenders consider a credit score of 750, and above, as ideal and a person with a lower credit score is considered at a greater risk of defaulting. According to the latest data from CRIF High Mark, about 6 per cent of home loan borrowers who were earlier in the "Very Low Risk", or above the 705 mark, have moved into the higher risk bucket. Similarly, for two-wheeler loans, about 25 per cent of "Very Low Risk" customers have slipped to riskier score ranges. In the case of auto loans, 15 per cent of borrowers have a high risk score, while 20 per cent of personal loan borrowers have high risk credit scores. It may be noted that these are the borrowers whose data is available with the credit bureau.

Many banks are now offering the cheapest interest rates to borrowers who have a higher credit score. For instance, LIC Housing Finance has recently reduced its home loan interest rates to as low as 6.66 per cent on tenures of up to 30 years. However, the rate is linked to the borrower's creditworthiness as reflected in their credit scores. Others such as Kotak Mahindra Bank and Punjab & Sind Bank offer the lowest rate on home loans starting from 6.65 per cent.

But these low loan rates are not available to everyone. Usually, they are given only to customers with high credit scores of above 700. Salaried individuals generally tend to get a better rate than self-employed professionals and businessmen.

According to BankBazaar, factors such as irresponsible payment behaviour, sitting on outstanding debts, utilising over 50 per cent of your credit limit, availing too much credit in a short period of time, or rolling over the debt by paying only the minimum amount can have a negative effect on your score. If you have availed for restructuring or a moratorium, your score will not drop.

But, if Covid-19 infected your credit score, here are a few ways that credit bureaus suggest can help improve it.

What really matters

- Always pay your dues on time: Late payments are viewed negatively by lenders
- Keep your balances low: Always be prudent to not use too much credit, control your utilization. Your credit-utilization ratio should be 30-40% of your available credit.
- Maintain a healthy mix of credit: It is better to have a healthy mix of secured (such as home loan, auto loan) and unsecured loans (such as personal loan, credit cards). Too many unsecured loans may be viewed negatively.
- Apply for new credit in moderation: You don't want to reflect that you are continuously seeking excessive credit; apply for new credit cautiously.
- Monitor your co-signed, guaranteed and joint accounts monthly: In co-signed, guaranteed or jointly held accounts, you are held equally liable for missed payments. Your joint holder's (or the guaranteed individual) negligence could affect your ability to access credit when you need it.
- Review your credit history frequently throughout the year: Monitor your CIBIL score and report regularly to avoid unpleasant surprises in the form of a rejected loan application. Minor mistakes, such as inaccurate KYC credentials or incorrect lender information should be avoided to protect your credit bureau profile and credit Score.

And lastly, is a score of 'NA' a bad thing?

"Not at all. These could mean: You do not have a credit history or you do not have enough of a credit history to be scored, i.e. you are new to the credit system. You do not have any credit activity in the last couple of years. You have all add-on credit cards and have no credit exposure," according to TransUnion CIBIL Limited.

It is important to note here that while getting a loan with a poor credit score can be challenging, it isn't impossible. There are many new emerging fintech platforms and non-bank lenders that will offer you a loan even with a low credit score, but might charge a higher interest rate. Again, getting a loan for a large amount from them is unlikely.

Why you should take note of IPOs like Zomato

RAJAS KELKAR

Consumer technology is fast becoming a way of life in India and everywhere in the world. Zomato, a consumer technology company that delivers food to subscribers, goes public later in the week.

This column is not about making a recommendation to you about the public offer. You need to speak to a registered financial advisor about that. The idea is to nudge you to take advantage of the information and strengthen your defences against investment risks. There is a wealth of information in the offer document filed by the company that you could use to enhance your knowledge about a new sector. There are several interesting facts mentioned in the paper.

What lies ahead

The prospectus highlights the outlook for the food delivery business. There are about 4 to 5 crore online delivery users in India compared to 9 to 12 crore in the US and 43 to 45 crore in China. Only 43 per cent of people in India have access to the internet. That is nearly half of the US and two-thirds of China. That becomes the addressable market. In that context, the market penetration of food delivery is only 9 per cent in India. In the US and China, it is 36 and 56 per cent respectively. That means there is scope for growth in the business.

When companies grow business, they generate cash that helps them further expand the reach for their goods and services. Investors choose to discount future growth and pay the price they get today for an equity share.

In the absence of profits, the way to measure the company's performance is by watching the trend in monthly active users or MAU on the app. They have to grow steadily every quarter. The other metric for the food delivery business is the gross order value or GOV. It means the total monetary value of the orders, including taxes, customer delivery charges, and all discounts, excluding tips.

The challenges

Investing in a company like Zomato comes with risks, just like any other business. The prospectus lists over 60 risk factors. Just like it is supposed to highlight prospects that would make you invest, the prospectus must also mention risks associated with the business. The company faced significant challenges in 2020-21. The first quarter of the year was the worst-ever in terms of GOV for the company. However, the company reported the best quarter in December 2020, the prospectus said. The pandemic is not over yet. People are reluctant to visit restaurants and order food as they used to in the past due to hygiene issues.

Consumer tech companies like Zomato usually focus on revenue growth and do not focus on profits in the early stage of development. With an increasing commitment of prominent private equity investors, the company has diluted equity. That means it has to work harder to earn profits in the future. The market is lucrative but very competitive. It will not be easy to compete profitably. That is because there are no significant entry barriers\. A global player with more capital can challenge Zomato.

What next

Besides Zomato, there were reports that Paytm, India's biggest payment app, would go public. The beauty of these companies going public is that investors would know more about these new growth sectors—like how they do business and create value. There are already many prominent, influential investors who have invested in the past in these companies, waiting to exit. These businesses are not capital intensive. They go for IPO or a public issue, usually to offer an exit route to influential investors. They would also add considerable weight to the market value of shares traded in India. Considering the potential, companies like Zomato would continue to grow revenue.

As an investor, the bet you take should come after you figure out if you can benefit when these companies turn in the profit. Sooner than later, they may get into benchmark indices like the Sensex or the Nifty. That is what drives a lot of long-term investors like mutual funds and pension funds to invest.

(The author is editor-in-chief at www.moneyminute.in)

MONEY-WISE

SILVER YEARS AND THE CHINESE CURSE

ALMOST a decade ago, I remember being a trifle surprised to receive the bio-data of a 65-year-old gentleman in response to a job vacancy that my company had advertised for. His CV was an impressive one and he had held a fairly responsible position with a MNC at the time of his retirement at the age of 58. He visited our office to meet me soon thereafter and what he told me still resounds in my ears. At retirement, he felt he was adequately well equipped to fend for his wife and himself, having invested a fair amount of his savings in Fixed Deposits and Insurance, typical of an older Indian investor back then.

He had retired quite happy, having held a prominent post, holidayed round the world with his wife and having facilitated an overseas posting for his only son. Within a couple of years post his retirement, he began feeling the pinch of 'Real' Inflation viz the cost of his purchases escalating at a far more rapid rate than his return on investments. Interest rate cuts had led to lowering of FD rates and the periodic inflows from his endowment insurance policies which had seemed quite adequate then, now seemed woefully inadequate.

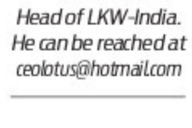
Having tried cost control measures to stem outflows, he realized by the fifth year of retirement that he was fighting a losing battle. Being a self-respecting man, he resisted the temptation of seeking financial support from his son and, instead, decided to start working again to realign cash flows.

This is by no means an isolated incident and now, more than ever, with interest rates at its lowest and most retirement realizations brought into the tax net, I fear that there must be many in India going through the same experience.

It is worth noting that over the last six decades, the life expectancy of Indians has risen to around to 69 years from just 41 years, as per World Bank data tabled in 2017. Unless this trend reverses, chances are that post the ongoing pandemic, Indians may have an even longer life expectancy.

The insurance industry in India was off the blocks with their pension plans and the mutual fund industry also discerned this trend. So, there is now no dearth of retirement fund schemes on offer from various Asset Management Companies (AMCs). Besides these, there is, of course, the Government-backed National Pension Scheme (NPS). Which of these you should choose is a question best left to experts.

Clearly, post 60 years of age is an extremely tricky time that every investor who meets and exceeds the Indian life expectancy will have to tackle. Those who plan for it early are the ones who are less likely to realize the sinister intent of this old Chinese curse: 'May you Outlive your Money'.



FINANCIAL ADVICE

ASHOK KUMAR
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What separates equities from other available asset classes?

PANKAJ CHOPRA

EQUITY shares or stocks or scrips. By whatever name you call them, these are fascinating instruments for investment and growth and are unlike any other investment option that you will get.

Equities are the only asset class where the underlying is morphing daily. What I mean by this is that while prices may go up and down based on demand and supply, the product that you are buying remains the same in all other cases. Take the example of real estate. It has been on a perpetual bull run until just a while ago. So, if you bought a 2-bedroom flat in Bandra, Mumbai 10 years ago, the price would probably be up by 5-6 times by now. However, the flat remains a 2-bedroom one and in the last 10 years it has not added another bedroom to itself.

This is not true for equities. Equities provide you a share in an actively running business. I always say, while we buy shares and make returns when the business does well, the actual value is added by all the workers and managers who go to work at that company every day. If you can identify a business that is expected to keep growing for the next many years, you have found an underlying that will ensure returns for you in the long term.

Another unique feature of equities is that when prices are heated, people come in droves to buy overpriced items. On the other hand, when you go shopping you will buy more if there is a sale going on, but when there is a discount going on in the equities markets people come and willingly sell there. For items that have static value, it is easy to determine the benefit they will provide and therefore a straightforward decision to buy them when the price is low. However, in equities, if you don't know the value of the share, you are just going along with others-buying and selling when everyone else is.

Another difference is that while in daily life, things are clearer in the near-term than in the distant future. In equities, it is the opposite. It is impossible to know what price a stock will close at tomorrow, there may be a fair idea 6 months later and a much better handle of where it might be 5 years down the line. If you get the business model right and are able to predict with reasonable certainty the financial performance of the company, then five years from now, the underlying value would have changed so much that even a sharp temporary fall then would not bring down your overall returns.

Listed equities provide perhaps the easiest way to make money. In business, you need to first make something before you can earn a profit. In real estate, or even in private equity, you need to do a transaction and bear the risk of illiquidity. However, equity markets are open each trading day, people are continuously putting a price on each of the businesses listed there. All you need to know is which ones to buy. It is simple to say, but difficult to execute as it requires constant research and monitoring.

(Pankaj Chopra is the founder of Five Rivers Portfolio Managers and can be reached at pankaj@5riversindia.com)

TODAY'S STOCK PICK

HDFC BANK

Current Price ₹1,503.7

Target Price ₹1,800

HDFC Bank reported a healthy Q4 led by robust business growth, stable margins, and controlled opex. But, with resurgence of COVID cases, it continues to make additional contingent provisions.

— Motilal Oswal Securities Limited

Disclaimer: The views and recommendations made above are that of the individual analyst or broking company, and not that of *The New Indian Express*.

I was a seven-year-old boy in Serbia, constructing Wimbledon trophies from improvised materials that I could find in my room. To be standing with a sixth Wimbledon title is incredible It means none of us three will stop. Roger and Rafa are legends, they are the reason I am where I am today. -NOVAK DJOKOVIC

LOVE ALL @ 20

Djokovic beats Berrettini for 6th Wimbledon title, equals Federer, Nadal's Major tally

NOLE RULE

The Serb became the latest entrant into the '20 Majors won' club. Here's a detailed look back at his career and why his stunning ascent, remarkable consistency and longevity was never in doubt...

COCKSURE, IN A GOOD WAY

After winning his first Major, at Melbourne all those summers ago in 2008, his victory speech included this delicious line. Happy the "first win" came here. The subtext was clear. Even if men's tennis had two players – Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal – well on their way to greatness even then, the then 20-year-old was marking out his territory. He was here to stay and stay he has.

A RETURN MONSTER

Even before he developed his now famed weapons – deft hands, mental resilience, deceptively gun service games – he was blessed with two traits. Ability to return serves with some precision and being a defensive crack from even behind the baseline. Those were his foundation blocks. The slide pick up passing shot, the defensive lob and moving a player to both wings before picking them off made him a very good player. He constantly worked on everything else – including recruiting Boris Becker – to polish his already chiseled game into something approaching greatness.

A HARD COURT BEAST

Tennis fans always love to talk about Federer on grass and Nadal on clay. Sadly, Djokovic on hard is an afterthought in these conversations, like an unwelcome guest. He has played 177 hard court Major matches, winning 157 of them. He has won 11 Majors in the hard courts since 2011. The next best? Nadal with three. That's thanks to his supreme focus on fitness and a burning desire to keep improving. He views his body like a temple.

THE GOAT POINT

With Federer's advancing years and Nadal's creaking knees, it's been certain that Djokovic would ultimately emulate before overhauling their title count. Just on terms of results, he will walk into the sunset as the greatest men's player of all time. He has won every Slam and all the Masters at least twice, only man to do so. He has winning records against both his great rivals as well. He's not driven by money but motivated to better himself at every opportunity. It was said 2011 was his annus mirabilis (three Slams). That became 2015 (three Slams). Six years later, he is on the cusp of winning a Golden Slam.

Serbia's Novak Djokovic celebrates his victory over Italy's Matteo Berrettini during their men's singles final at Wimbledon on Sunday | AFP

AFP @ Wimbledon

NOVAK Djokovic won a record-equalling 20th Grand Slam title and sixth Wimbledon on Sunday with a four-set victory over battling Matteo Berrettini of Italy. The world number one triumphed 6-7 (4/7), 6-4, 6-4, 6-3 to move level on 20 majors with Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal.

His win also put him three-quarters of the way to the first calendar Grand Slam of all four majors since 1969.

A sixth victory at the All England Club for Djokovic, who was playing in his 30th final at the Slams, added to his nine Australian Opens, two Roland Garros titles as well as three at the US Open.

Should he win a fourth title in New York in September, he will become just the third man in history after Don Budge (1938) and Rod Laver (1962 and 1969) to complete the calendar Grand Slam.

"It was more than a battle. He is a true Italian hammer I felt it on my skin," said Djokovic of Berrettini.

"It means none of us three will stop. Roger and Rafa are legends they are the reason I am where I am today."

Federer — who bowed out in the quarterfinals while Nadal did not play — tweeted his congratulations.

"Congrats Novak on your 20th major," he said.

"I'm proud to have the opportunity to play in a special era of tennis champions. Wonderful performance, well done!"

The Serb also now has 85 career titles while he has become the first man to break the $150 million prize money barrier.

1 At the start of 2011 Djokovic had one Slam to his name. Federer had 16 and Nadal had 9.

4 Djokovic is the only the fourth man to win Wimbledon three consecutive times

Djokovic is the only player to win all the four Grand Slams more than once.

MEKTIC & PAVIC TRIUMPH

Croatia's Nikola Mektic and Mate Pavic won the men's doubles title on Saturday with a 6-4, 7-6 (5), 2-6, 7-5 victory over Marcel Granollers of Spain and Horacio Zeballos of Argentina.The top seeds triumphed for the first time as a team.

DID YOU KNOW?

When Djokovic won his first Major, Federer had 16 to his name, while Nadal had 9. Now all are tied with 20 each.

MESSISTIC TOUCH

Di Maria's goal gives Leo his first major title as La Albiceleste end title drought

THE WAIT IS OVER

Argentina's excruciating 28-year wait for a major trophy finally came to an end at Maracana Stadium. The barren spell was as agonising for Lionel Messi, who has suffered many setbacks since making his debut in 2005. Here's a look back at the instances when the South Americans fell short at the final hurdle...

2014 WORLD CUP FINAL

This was Lionel Messi's golden opportunity to put a permanent stamp on his legacy and match the credentials of Diego Maradona and Pele at the international level. Messi was excellent for much of their World Cup campaign, and the final against Germany was billed as a clash between the best player and the best team. He had his chances in the final to engrave Argentina's name on the trophy, but it wasn't to be.

2015 COPA FINAL

A year later, Messi and Argentina had a chance for some sort of reedemption when they came up against Chile in the final of the Copa America. La Albiceleste had got to the final with a 6-1 thrashing of Paraguay in the semifinals but they weren't able to score even once in the summit clash as it finished goalless at the end of extra time. The shootout was won 4-1 by Chile .

2016 COPA FINAL

This was even more painful for the Argentinians. In a repeat of the 2015 final, they met Chile once again and the outcome was all too similar to their frustration. Messi missed his penalty in the shootout on this occasion, leading to him announcing his retirement immediately after the final before making a U-turn later.

2004 & 2007 COPA FINAL

In both instances, Argentina were second-best to rivals Brazil. The 2007 final, where Messi was a part of the Argentine side, was a one-sided affair as Brazil ran away 3-0 winners. In 2004, though, it was much closer and a penalty shootout was needed to separate the two proud footballing nations.

Lional Messi lays his hands on the Copa America trophy at Rio de Janeiro | AP

CAPTAIN FANTASTIC

151 Messi was named player of the tournament, having equalled and then broken Javier Mascerano's record of 147 caps for Argentina, setting a new mark of 151 on Saturday.

4 Messi's four goals during the competition took him to 76 for his country, just one off all-time South American mark set by Pele for Brazil.

1 Neymar, who missed Brazil's victory two years ago through injury, was also seeking his first major title with the Selecao. His wait goes on.

AP @ Rio de Janeiro

Argentina finally made Lionel Messi cry with joy. After losing four times in finals, early exits in major tournaments and even a decision to retire from the national team, the superstar celebrated a much-awaited title with Argentina at Saturday's 1-0 win against Brazil in the Maracana Stadium.

The title ended Argentina's 28-year drought of major trophies, with Messi as the best player with four goals and five assists. The captain also broke the team's record for international appearances with 151 matches. "I needed to remove from myself the thorn of achieving something with the national team," Messi said after celebrating with his teammates.

When Uruguayan referee Esteban Ostojich blew the final whistle, Messi knelt down on the pitch and covered his face with his hands.

After he lifted the Copa America trophy, Messi said on the pitch and spoke to his family on the phone. He flicked the golden medal around his neck and shouted "I won, I won!"

The next challenge is to win the World Cup in Qatar next year, which would be the first since Maradona took the team to the title in 1986.

Until Saturday, Messi's titles with Argentina were only the U-20 World Cup title in 2005 and a gold medal at the Beijing Olympics in 2008.

Chile would crush Messi's hopes in two Copa America finals, in 2015 and 2016, both on penalties. After the second defeat to Chile, Messi told journalists that the national team was over for him.

"It is not for me. I tried, I think that is it," he said.

On Saturday, Messi kissed the Copa America trophy and lifted it at age 34. The biggest gap in his decorated career is now closed. His first public words after the title showed how thrilled and relieved he felt. "What a beautiful madness!," Messi said in an Instagram post showing him shirtless holding the Copa America trophy at the Maracana's dressing room. "This is unbelievable! Thank you, God! We are the champions!"

Later Messi said his happiness was "unexplainable." "I was sad before, but I knew that at some point it was going to happen," he said. "I feel that God was saving this moment for me, against Brazil in a final and in their country."

Battle-ready Neeraj eyes glory

INDRANEEL DAS @ Chennai

GETTING a feel of a competition has been one of his yearnings when he was stuck in Patiala during the lockdown since last year and later when competitions in Europe started in around April-May. Having missed out on competition and training in 2019, javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra made a return in January last year. After qualifying in South Africa with a throw of 87.86m, there was hardly any competition for him.

The 23-year-old, considered India's best bet in athletics, had a couple of mediocre competitions before Kourtane where he brushed shoulders with Johannes Vetter of Germany, the thrower who had been breaching the 90-m mark with ease this season, along with a few who would be there at the Olympics.

After getting a feel of competitions and throwing against Vetter, Keshorn Walcott of Trinidad and Tobago who had 89.12m throw, Neeraj felt it was enough before the Olympics and did not want to risk himself or upset his training schedule. "Visa was an issue and we did not want to upset our training," he said during an online interaction. He felt instead having some intense training for a few days and then head to the Olympics. As of Sunday, three throwers — Vetter, Walcott (89.12m), Marcin Krukowski (89.55m) — have better mark than Neeraj this season.

The athlete is quite happy training in Uppsala. "Initially, we tried for Koutane where top javelin throwers train but could not get a slot," he said. "Uppsala is also a nice place with good facilities. It's the same place where pole vault world champion Armand Duplantis trains."

Neeraj feels his throw of 86.79m throw was satisfying under the circumstances he threw and expects to improve on that. "Important thing was to get a feel of competing against top players," he said.

"I did not have my javelins as they could not reach Kourtane. I had to use other javelins during the competition."

Neeraj is also working on the release of the javelin, especially its trajectory. This had been an issue with him but now he felt he has managed to work on it. "It used to drift out of the sector and sometimes gain more height than necessary," he said. "We have worked on that."

Even though he is fourth on the list this season, Neeraj felt everything would depend on how one performs on that particular day. "This is my first Olympics so I don't have the experience but I am sure everything would depend on how I throw on that particular day. The same thing would apply to others as well. I think the qualifying mark too would be high. May be around 85m. But those who will qualify would get two days of rest to recover."

EXPRESS READ

Anand beats Kasparov again

ZAGREB: Former world champion Viswanathan Anand defeated long-time rival Garry Kasparov for the second consecutive time, in the 13th round of the Croatia Grand Chess Tour's Blitz event here on Sunday. He had beaten Kasparov on the first day too. The victory came for Anand after three straight draws in rounds 10, 11 and 12 against Anish Giri (Netherlands), Jan-Kryzstof Duda (Poland) and Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (France).

Osaka returns to the spotlight

LONDON: Naomi Osaka returned to the spotlight for the first time since withdrawing from the French Open in May and skipping Wimbledon, posing on the red carpet at The ESPYS on Saturday night. The world's highest-paid female athlete faced a slew of photographers in New York, with one being heard urging her, "Nice smile" as cameras clicked furiously. Osaka offered a faint closed-mouth smile in response.

All Sri Lanka players test Covid negative

Colombo: THE entire Sri Lankan first-team, including senior players Kusal Perera, Dushmantha Chameera and Dhananjaya de Silva, have all returned negative in their latest RT-PCR tests ahead of the limited overs series against India. The tests were conducted by Sri Lanka Cricket. It is now expected that the players would be allowed to enter the bio-bubble by Monday as they complete a week-long hard quarantine after their arrival from the UK. After batting coach Grant Flower and data analyst G T Niroshan, along with another player in a separate bio-bubble, tested positive for Covid-19, the series that was originally scheduled to start on July 13.

NMDC Limited
(A GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ENTERPRISE)
'Khanij Bhavan', 10-3-311/A, Castle Hills, Masab Tank, Hyderabad - 500 028
CIN: L13100TG1958GOI001674

CONTRACTS DEPARTMENT
Tender Enquiry No: HO (Contracts)/Retrofit/BC-509&515/DIOM/2020/235
[MSTC Ref. No.: NMDC/HO/39/21-22/ET/166]

NMDC Limited, A "NAVARATNA" Public Sector Company under Ministry of Steel, Govt. of India, invites **online bids** from prospective bidders for the work of ***"Retrofitting of Existing Slip Ring Motors for Yard Conveyors BC-509 & BC-515 of Loading Plant with Squirrel Cage Induction Motors along with suitable LV/MV Drives Housed in a suitable Pre-Fabricated Container (E-House) at DIOM, Donimalai Complex on Lumpsum Turnkey (LSTK) Basis with Pay-Back Guarantee Assurance".***

The detailed NIT and Bid documents can be viewed and /or downloaded from **12.07.2021 to 12.08.2021 from the following website links;**

1. NMDC website – **https://tenders.nmdc.co.in/nmdctender/**
2. Central Public Procurement portal – **https://www.eprocure.gov.in/epublish/app** and search tender through tender inquiry number
3. MSTC portal - **https://www.mstcecommerce.com/eprochome/nmdc/buyer_login.jsp** For further help, refer to the 'vendor guide' given on the MSTC website.

The bidders are requested to submit their bids online through MSTC Limited website. The details of the submission of the bid online are given in NIT. The bidders on regular basis are required to visit the NMDC's website/CPP Portal/ MSTC website for corrigendum, if any, at a future date.

For further clarification, the following can be contacted –

General Manager (Contracts), NMDC Limited, Hyderabad, Fax no. +91-040-23534746, Tel No. +91-040-2353 2800, email: contracts@nmdc.co.in

General Manager (Contracts)

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521
No.CEE/TKR/TZ/SEE(O)/AEE-1/20-21/2451-53 Date:09.07.2021

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-Procurement Mode Only)

KPTCL, invites tenders for the following works.

1) Bid Enquiry No.: KPTCL/CEE/TZ/TKR/66kV/LINE/Shylapura-Y N Hosakote/PTK/TL-06-Call-5 for Construction of Balance works of 66kV SC Line on DC Towers from existing 66/11kV **Shylapura Sub Station to existing 66/11kV Y.N. Hosakote** Sub Station in existing corridor (Replacement of existing 11kV Rabbit conductor by Coyote conductor) and Dismantling of the existing 66kV line running between these two stations on RCC poles with Rabbit Conductor and Buy Back of Released Materials on Total Turnkey Basis in Pavagada Taluk and Tumakruru District including Supply of all Materials / Equipments, Testing and Commissioning. **(Indent No.KPTCL/2020-21/EL/WORK_INDENT7747).**

2) Bid Enquiry No.: KPTCL/CEE/TZ/TKR/66kV/LINE/Pavagada-PRPura/TTK/TL-07-Call-4 for Construction of the Balance work of 66kV S/C Tap Line on D/C Towers from existing 66kV **Pavagada-Parashurampura S/C line to existing 66/11kV Nagalamadike S/s** in the existing corridor (Replacement of existing 66kV Rabbit conductor by Coyote conductor) and Buy Back of Released Materials on Total Turnkey Basis including supply of all Materials / Equipments and Erection (Including Civil works) of all Materials / Equipments, Testing and Commissioning. **(Indent No.KPTCL/2020-21/EL/WORK_INDENT7112).**

The Bids will be received through **e-Procurement portal only.** The detailed notification regarding subject enquiry in the e-Procurement portal can be obtained by logging onto KPTCL website: **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** on hyperlink "**e-Procurement-KPTCL**" or to **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in on or after 12.07.2021.** Any other details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/- **Chief Engineer, Electy.,**
Transmission Zone, KPTCL, Siddaganga Complex, B.H. Road, Tumakuru-2. Tel: 0816-2279074

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e-mail: tamilnaducoopsugarfederation@gmail.com GST No.33AABAT0660R1Z8

e-Tender (on-line) Notice and Open Auction(off-line) for the sale of surplus bagasse of 2021-22 season

Online bids are invited through e-tender portal **https://tntenders.gov.in** from the bulk consumers for sale of expected surplus bagasse for an approximate quantity of 39,925 MT from Co-operative Sugar Mills in Tamil Nadu. The upset price for sale of surplus bagasse of **2021-22** season is **Rs.2,300/-** per MT (Basic Price) and GST, Transportation etc are additional. The last date for submission of bids is **11.08.2021** at **11.00** A.M. Bids will be opened on **12.08.2021** at **11.30** A.M. Bids in physical form not accepted.

Place : Chennai – 35
Date : 09.07.2021 DIPR/2019/TENDER/2021 **MANAGING DIRECTOR**

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER (Only through e-Procurement portal)

BWSSB invites ITEMWAR TENDERS from registered agencies for the following works

Office of the Chief Engineer (West), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bangalore - 09

Sl. No.	Division	IFT Number	Amount put to tender EMD (in Rs.)	Last date & time for Submission of Tender	Date & time for Opening of Tender
1	South-West	BWSSB/EESW/PB/787/2021-22 Dated : 06.07.2021	6,41,502/-	28.07.2021 upto 04.00 PM	30.07.2021 after 3.00 PM
			16,050/-		
2			4,93,148/-		
			12,400/-		
3			13,86,549/-		
			34,650/-		
4	South-West	BWSSB/EESW/PB/787/2021-22 Dated : 06.07.2021 (Reserve for SC Category)	4,58,576/-		
			5,750/-		
				Sd/- Executive Engineer (South-West)	
5	North	BWSSB/ENTE/AE-1/620 2021-22, Dt: 07.07.2021	91,96,602/-	26.07.2021 upto 03.00 PM	27.07.2021 after 4.00 PM
			1,83,932/-		
				Sd/- Executive Engineer (North)	

Office of the Chief Engineer (Design), 9th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bangalore - 09

6	DC & BVM	BWSSB/EE(DC & BVM)D/PB/BVM/ 922/2021-22, Dt: 08.07.2021	43,98,524/-	23.07.2021 upto 04.00 PM	26.07.2021 at 12.00 PM
			87,971/-		
7		BWSSB/EE(DC & BVM)/PB/924/ 2021-22, Dt: 08.07.2021	92,94,500/-		
			1,85,890/-		
8		BWSSB/EE(DC & BVM)/PB/926/ 2021-22, Dt: 08.07.2021	93,12,114/-		
			1,85,242/-		
9		BWSSB/EE(DC & BVM)/PB/928/ 2021-22, Dt: 08.07.2021	83,74,000/-		
			1,66,940/-		
10		BWSSB/EE(DC & BVM)D/PB/BVM/ 930/2021-22, Dt: 08.07.2021	93,79,000/-		
			1,87,580/-		
11		BWSSB/EE(DC & BVM)/PB/932/ 2021-22, Dt: 08.07.2021	83,21,161/-		
			1,66,424/-		
				Sd/- Executive Engineer (DC & BVM)	

Office of the Chief Engineer (East), 7th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bangalore - 09

12	South East-2	BWSSB/EE(SE-2)/PB/677/2021-22, Dt: 07.07.2021	2,65,929/-	20.07.2021 upto 04.00 PM	23.07.2021 after 4.30 PM
			6,650/-		
				Sd/- Executive Engineer (South East-2)	

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-Procurement portal process can be obtained by loging on to **https://eproc.karrnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the under signed office during working hours.

DIPR/DDU/YC/778/2021-22

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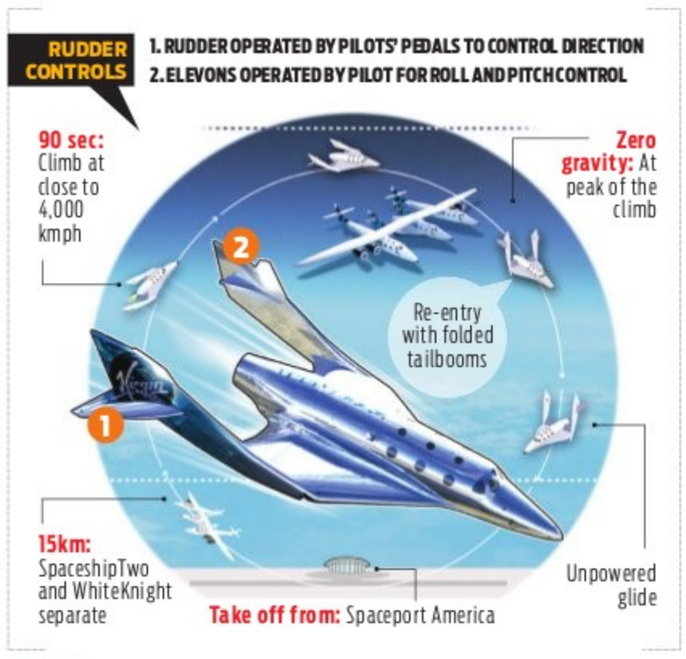
100 mins of history ushers in era of space tourism

Branson's maiden journey peaks at 85 km above earth, where the two pilots and four passengers experienced 5 mins of zero gravity


RUDDER CONTROLS
1. RUDDER OPERATED BY PILOTS' PEDALS TO CONTROL DIRECTION
2. ELEVONS OPERATED BY PILOT FOR ROLL AND PITCH CONTROL
90 sec: Climb at close to 4,000 kmph
Zero gravity: At peak of the climb
Re-entry with folded tailbooms
15km: SpaceshipTwo and WhiteKnight separate
Unpowered glide
Take off from: Spaceport America

SPACE

WASHINGTON: A Virgin Galactic spaceship carrying Richard Branson touched down Sunday after a voyage the British billionaire called an "experience of a lifetime."

It reached a peak altitude of around 85km, beyond the boundary of space, according to the US, allowing the passengers to experience weightlessness and admire the Earth's curvature. Touch down occurred around 15:40 GMT, about an hour after take-off.

"Congratulations to all our wonderful team at Virgin Galactic for 17 years of hard work to get us this far," he said during a live feed as the VSS Unity spaceship glided back to Spaceport America. Branson was accompanied on the historic joueny by his team of five space travellers, including Indian-born Sirisha Bandla. This milestone comes five months after another Indian, Swami Iyer, took over as the president of Virgin Galactic.

A massive carrier plane made a horizontal take-off from Space Port around 14: 40 GMT and ascended for around an hour to an altitude of 15 km. The mothership then dropped a rocket-powered spaceplane called VSS Unity, which ignited its engine and ascended at Mach 3 beyond 80 km, carrying two pilots and four passengers, including Branson. Once the rocket engine was cut off, passengers unbuckled and experienced a few minutes of weightlessness, while admiring the curvature of Earth from the ship's 17 windows.

After peaking at around 85 km altitude, the ship re-entered the thick part of the atmosphere and glided back to the runway.

Branson marked a key milestone with his test flight, setting foot beyond earth ahead of Jeff Bezos, who owns the rival space venture Blue Origin. However, Virgin Galactic doesn't expect to start flying customers before next year.

Virgin Galactic plans to start regular commercial operations in early 2022, and is aiming to carry out 400 flights per year from Spaceport America, its base in New Mexico. Some 600 tickets have already been sold, including to Hollywood celebrities, for prices ranging between $200,000 and $250,000. Tickets are expected to be even more expensive when they go on sale to the public.

Blue Origin has yet to announce ticket prices or a date for the start of commercial operations. But a seat for the July 20 flight was sold an auction -- and the mysterious winner paid $28 million.

It's been a long road for Sir Richard to get to this point. He first announced his intention to make a space plane in 2004, with the expectation he'd have a commercial service available by 2007. But technical difficulties, including a fatal crash during a development flight in 2014, have made the space project one of the most challenging ventures of his career. David Mackay was chief pilot for the test mission on Sunday.

EXFILE • TECH

DIDI's RIDE CUT SHORT BY BEIJING

The title of big tech is fast becoming a poisoned chalice in China, with the latest casualty being the country's largest ride-hailing app DiDi Global Inc. It all started with an off-the-cuff remark by the now cut-to-size Alibaba founder Jack Ma, who derided China's 'pawnshop mentality' in October 2020, prodding the authorities to take up the cudgels. Here's how the cookie crumbled

THE DiDi SAGA

2012 DiDi founded by Cheng Wei

2015 DiDi backed by Tencent merges with Jack Ma backed Alibaba

2016 DiDi buys out Uber's China operations

2017 Investment pours in as Softbank pumps in money

2018 Undergoes mega safety standards overhaul

2020 Decides to list on NYSE

June 30, 2021 Raises $4.4 billion in IPO

July 1 Valuation reaches $68 billion

July 4 Chinese regulators crack down

THE BIGGER PICTURE

The crackdown on DiDi follows the template of the Chinese regulators' crackdown on other tech titans. But how did the blue-eyed boys of the Chinese growth story turn suddenly into national security threat? The answer lies in data

33% Of world data would be with China by 2025

A majority of these data will be in Alibaba and Tencent's kitty

60% More than the US' data holding

48.6 ZETABYTES China's projected data holding by 2025 0000

$2 TRILLION The market capitalisation ofAlibaba, Tencent and Ant, much higher than that of state-owned Bank of China Ltd

DATA LEAK FEARS

As tech giants gain troves of personal data on every aspect of life — from transport habits to payments — there is unease in Xi Jinping's government over who controls it. The concern partly stems from whether key data could leak beyond the country's borders

HOW DOES THE CRACKDOWN FIT IN

- For Xi, harnessing that data is key to maintaining political control. It can be used to feed a vast surveillance state to snuff out dissent
- Its value can be unleashed throughout the broader economy. Xi has poured in $1.4 trillion into digital infralike server centers
- Laws regulating data use are in the pipeline. Strong-arm tactics to force the giants into sharing their databases
- The UScampaign to deny China key technology has prodded it to stop IPOs from the likes of Didi
- Discouraging overseas listings will help Xi keep China's biggest companies aligned with the party's goals

PAST ACTIONS

- **$2.8 BILLION** Fine on Alibabaover antitrust violations
- **$35 BILLION** Dual listing of Ant Group nixed in November last
- **$7.7 BILLION** Tencent forced to commit for environmental causes in April last
- **$2 BILLION** Pony Ma, Tencent's founder, pledged to charity at authorities' behest

* BYTEDANCE'S IPO PLANS SCUTTLED. * FOOD DELIVERY COMPANY MEITUAN SUBJECTED TO FORMAL PROBE

25% Slump in share prices after the crackdown

493mn Annual active users of DiDi

14 Countries where DiDi has presence

ACCUSATIONS AND PERSECUTION

China's cyberspace watchdog accuses Didi of illegal collection and use of personal data

Beijing cites a cyber security review in public interest.

Stops new registrations after trading in New York

App removed from China's app store

25 apps connected to it disbanded

THE MAIZE RUNNER

An aerial photo of a maize field, where a maze to resemble an image of a person getting inoculated is formed, at Selm in Germany. The maze was created by farmer Benedikt Luenemann and will be open for visitors from July 16 until Halloween | AFP

Belgian woman contracts two strains

COVID

PARIS: A 90-year-old woman who died after falling ill with Covid-19 was infected with both the Alpha and Beta variants of the coronavirus at the same time, researchers in Belgium said Sunday, adding that the rare phenomenon may be underestimated.

The unvaccinated woman, who lived alone and received at-home nursing care, was admitted to the OLV Hospital in the Belgian city of Aalst after a spate of falls in March and tested positive for Covid-19 the same day. While her oxygen levels were initially good, her condition deteriorated rapidly and she died five days later.

When medical staff tested for the presence of any variants of concern they found that she was carrying both the Alpha strain, which originated in Britain, and the Beta variant first detected in South Africa. "Both these variants were circulating in Belgium at the time, so it is likely that the lady was co-infected with different viruses from two different people," said a molecular biologist from the hospital.

Furry pals carriers of superbugs: Study

STUDY

Paris: Antibiotic-resistant "superbugs", which the WHO calls one of the top global threats to public health -- usually conjure images of hospital settings. But new research may point to a less-obvious source: the family dog. Researchers warned of "an international public health risk" after finding antibiotic-resistant bacteria in a range of different types of raw dog food.

"The trend for feeding dogs raw food may be fuelling the spread of antibiotic resistant-bacteria", the researchers said in a press release for their study, to be presented at the European Congress of Clinical Microbiology & Infectious Diseases.

Separate research to be presented at the same conference found resistance to a last-resort antibiotic may be passing between pet dogs and their owners. Antibiotic resistant bugs can render minor injuries and common infections potentially deadly. Resistance has grown in recent years due to overuse of such drugs in humans and farm animals.

In the dog food study, a team from the University of Porto analysed 55 samples of dog food from 25 brands including 14 raw frozen types, looking for Enterococci bacteria. The bacteria is able to live harmlessly in human and animal intestines but can be dangerous in other parts of the body and can be resistant to antibiotics.

Researchers found that all of the raw dog food samples contained antibiotic-resistant Enterococci, including bacteria resistant to the last-resort antibiotic linezolid.

Genetic sequencing revealed that some of these antibiotic-resistant bacteria in the raw dog food were the same kind found in hospital patients in the UK, Germany and the Netherlands. "The close contact of humans with dogs and the commercialisation of the studied brands in different countries poses an international public health risk," said researcher Ana Freitas.

"European authorities must raise awareness about the potential health risks when feeding raw diets to pets and the manufacture of dog food, including ingredient selection and hygiene practices, must be reviewed."

She added that dog owners should wash their hands after handling pet food and disposing of faeces to ward off any possible risk of transmission.

FACT OF THE MATTER

Ants shrunk this dinosaur?

NATURE

Alvareszaur dinosaurs 'rapidly shrank' to the size of a chicken 95 million years ago when they switched to exclusively eating ants, a new study has revealed. Measuring dozens of specimens of the dinosaur spanning millions of years allowed Zichuan Qin of the University of Bristol to track its change in size and diet. The alvarezsaurs lived from the Late Jurassic to Late Cretaceous, about 160 to 70 million years ago, and were found throughout the world. They were two-legged predators for most of their time on Earth, pursuing lizards, early mammals, and baby dinosaurs as their diet. The older specimens ranged about the size of a ostrich, then plummeted to size of a chicken.

Oldest seaweed fossil found

HISTORY

One-billion-year-old seaweed fossils discovered in China are thought to be related to an ancestor of Earth's earliest land plants and trees that lived 450 million years ago. The 2mm-long specimens are also believed to be the oldest green algae ever discovered. The micro-fossil seaweeds, a form of algae known as Proterocladus antiquus, add support to the theory stating terrestrial life evolved from marine lifeforms. The specimens were imprinted in rock taken from an area of dry land near the city of Dalian in northern China, which was underwater millions of years ago. Before the discovery, the earliest fossil records of green seaweeds were found in rock dated 800 million years old.

World's deepest swimming pool

EXPLORE

The city of superlatives with the world's tallest tower among its many records, Dubai now has the deepest swimming pool on the planet complete with a "sunken city" for divers to explore. Deep Dive Dubai, which opened Wednesday but initially by invitation only, prides itself as "the only diving facility in the world" where you can go down 60 metres, 15 metres deeper than any other pool. It contains 14.6 million litres of fresh water, a volume equivalent to six Olympic-size swimming pools. Guided down by lights and ambient music, divers can play table football and other games at the bottom as well as explore an "abandoned sunken city". A one-hour dive costs between $135 and $410, with Deep Dive vowing that it will open to the general public soon.

RARE FIND

China scientists stumble upon nursery of 518-mn-yr-old fossils

PALEONTOLOGY

BEIJING: An undersea menagerie buried under an avalanche of sediment some 518 million years ago is finally coming to light, revealing thousands of specimens for the first time—including many from entirely new species.

Paleontologists who found the fossil trove near Kunming, China, believe they've unearthed a Cambrian-era 'paleonursery,' according to their report in the journal Nature Ecology and Evolution, with more than half of the specimens juveniles. There were preserved eggs, larvae, and specimens with appendages intact and internal soft tissues still visible. The site, the Haiyan lagerstätte—from the German for 'storage place', it refers to a sedimentary deposit with extraordinarily well-preserved fossils—includes over 2,800 specimens from at least 118 species, including precursors to modern-day insects, worms, crustaceans, jellyfish,

sponges and trilobites. Some 17 of the species are previously unknown to science.

"It's just amazing to see all these juveniles in the fossil record," co-author Julien Kimmig, a paleontologist at Penn State University, said in a statement. "Juvenile fossils are something we hardly see," Julien added.

Running between 541 million and 485 million years ago, the Cambrian Period saw unimaginable climatic and biological changes, including the Cambrian explosion—the fastest and most widespread diversification of life in the planet's history. There is a thorough fossil record from that era, when life lived exclusively in the ocean, but little of it represents young creatures.

Each sediment layer in the lagerstätte represents a single 'burial event,' the researchers say, and while more recent strata have turned up some findings, none match the diversity of the lowest level. It's not clear what caused the burial event that killed off the specimens at that level. The team theorizes it could have been a rapid change in oxygen levels or a storm causing muddy sludge 'to flow down a slope and bury everything in its path'.

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12.07.2021
MONDAY

DAY'S DIARY

Medal of Honor

A resolution to give a Medal of Honor to petty officers, seamen, landsmen, and marines of the Civil War was approved and signed into law by President Lincoln on this day in 1862

PRESENTED BY

Iowa Senator James Grimes submitted Bill S. 82 during the Second Session of the 37th Congress, "An Act to further promote the Efficiency of the Navy"

APPEARANCE

The gold-finished bronze star is suspended by a hook to a ring fastened behind an eagle. The hook is attached to a light-blue moired silk neckband. The ribbon has 13 white stars

ONE FOR THE PRESIDENT

Only one US President has ever been awarded the Medal of Honor, and it was Teddy Roosevelt, for his service as a Rough Rider

Shivarajkumar to tie-up with Rishab Shetty

PG 4

MAKING ROOM

Soothing colours, open spaces, nature-based elements... these are the new interior design trends B'lureans are opting for after a devastating second wave of the pandemic

People want spaces with multiple usage options that are both functional and ergonomic. Design elements like landscape, water features...that nurture emotional well-being are becoming popular

Giulia Baima Bollone, business head, Embassy Interiors

Many want to get rid of bright and bold colours and shift towards colours that offer zen and peace. They want designs that help them feel close to nature

Farah Ahmed Mathias, co-founder, Fadd Studio

SANATH PRASAD

THE pandemic has forced many to re-do their home designs in sync with the changing needs. City-based interior designers observe that there has been a spike in enquiries, especially after the unlock phase, from clients who are looking to revamp their homes with simple designs and light colours in contrast to previously-existing dark and vibrant hues. More cabinet space, ergonomic furniture, wall decor with themes of nature are now much sought-after.

"People want spaces with multiple usage options that are both functional and ergonomic. They are also considering independent open areas such as balconies and terraces to avoid the feeling of claustrophobia. Design elements like landscape, water features...that are aesthetic and nurture emotional well-being are becoming popular," says Giulia Baima Bollone, business head of Embassy Interiors, an architecture and interior design brand.

With a lot of home-office projects on hand, **Nain Belliappa**, founder of Houseof9design, a Bengaluru-based interior design studio, is busy converting bedrooms to study and office spaces. "We find that our clients are getting rid of king-size beds and instead making room for workstations. We are thinking of offering flexible and foldable bed options which are getting to be popular. Some of these alternative sleeping arrangements have to be customised with many not being readily available in the market," she says.

Designers also believe that with an expected third wave of Covid-19 around the corner, many clients want to get their refurbished homes up and running soon. "We have witnessed a spike in consultations during the unlock phase which came as a surprise. A lot of customers want to finish their interior designs before a possible lockdown due to the third wave. People are looking for mild, light and muted shades, and colours like green, white, beige, and sage. This trend is called Japandi, a blend of simplicity and nature-centric themes with minimal styling options," says Aiman Nishaat Shaik, a furniture and interior designer.

Meanwhile, Farah Ahmed Mathias and Dhaval Shelluhar, co-founders of Fadd Studio, find that their clients now prefer more nature-friendly themes. "Many want to get rid of bright and bold colours and shift towards colours that offer zen and peace. They want designs that help them feel close to nature. Moreover, we are seeing the trend of houses being bought on the outskirts of the city where there is a lot of greenery. This syncs well with nature-centric themes," says Mathias.

Monika Manchanda, a city-based food writer and consultant, co-founder and chief culinary officer at LiveAltLife, dishes out fun food-related trivia in this weekly series. So, answer these three questions and find out how much of a foodie you are.

GRUB HUB

THE QUIZ WILL BE PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY

Send answers to **bengalurucityexpress@gmail.com** with the subject line **'Food quiz'**

The correct answers and names of the first three respondents are published here. Prize: The first prize winner this week will win a complimentary voucher (worth ₹2,000) from Burger Seigneur*

THE RIGHT ANSWERS

1. Nilgiris 2. Geist 3. Chow Chow baath

FIRST THREE TO GET IT RIGHT

1. Vibha Prabhu
2. Nivedita Chengappa
3. Ashok Balaji

***Conditions apply**

By The Way

Done and done

Kannada actor Kavya Shetty wrapped the shooting of the film *Gurthunda Seethakalam*. Sharing the news on Instagram, along with a photo with director Nagashekhar and Satyadev, she said, "That's a wrap for me for #guruthundaseethakalam." Shetty has not revealed much about her role in the film, which also stars Tamannaah Bhatia. We'll just have to wait and watch.

In the offing?

Do you know Royal Challengers Bangalore have started a petition to get something done on Church Street. If you don't, we'll tell you. One of their posts on Instagram said, "Petition to get this mural done at Church Street." Are they serious or is it all for fun? Time will tell.

This new exhibition looks at art through the lens of food by combining paintings, prints, textiles and photographs with recipes to try at home today

THE PLATE & THE PAST

SIMRAN AHUJA

BE it banana bread or dalgona coffee, food has come as a comfort to many in the Covid-19 pandemic. So, when it came to brainstorming over the focus of their latest exhibition, the team at Museum of Art & Photography (MAP) chose to look at history and art through the lens of food. Stories on a Banana Leaf, a digital project that was launched recently, combines sculptures, paintings, prints, textiles and photographs from MAP's collection and brings them together with recipes from their team members.

"Food was central to what made us happy in these times - be it through sending food to colleagues as a sign of support or exchanging recipes. So, we dug into our collection and realised there are lots of works on food. We then combined those with recipes that people can easily try at home," explains Arnika Ahldag, associate curator at MAP, who emphasises the collective effort of the team in bringing about this project. "There are many different ways to appreciate art and history, you could read or write about it. But what if we look at it through cooking?" she wonders.

After a month of work on this in June, Stories on a Banana Leaf went live in July, and will be available on MAP's website for three months. Besides highlighting the museum's presence in a South Indian city, the name of the exhibition also alludes to the bonding that happens over a meal, where nuggets of information about ingredients, personal stories, and more are exchanged. "Food can bring people and memories together, both good and painful ones," says Ahldag. The recipe she contributed illustrates this. Clubbed together with K G Subramanyan's untitled oil on canvas painting, Ahldag's Meen Moilee recipe has a short note by her that reads: "The dish is named after Molly, the lady who tempered down the spices of the otherwise really hot Kerala fish curry for the Britishers." "There is heaviness in knowing that the dish was made easier so that a white person could have it too," she points out.

Chetra, Barahmasa-I series, Madan Meena, 2020

Untitled, KG Subramanyan, c.1980
Images courtesy of the Museum of Art & Photography (MAP), Bengaluru

Similar observations, notes, and recipes came from across the various departments at MAP. Take, for instance, an advertisement for Cadbury chocolates with a recipe for a microwave choco lava mug cake; a coconut grater and vegetable cutter with a cucumber and coconut salad; and so on. Tanushree Kulkarni, a development officer, recommends a red wine-poached pear based on an ancient painting. "The exhibition doesn't just show the confluence of different cultures but also the anthropological and linguistic implications. The regional word for jackfruit - kathal - comes from the central Indian ethnic group of Mundas. It's important for us to understand the word that we use so commonly today is borrowed, because the languages of the Mundas are now endangered," she explains.

Shubhasree Purkayastha's recipe - Kathal Bij-er Chop - adds more food for thought. "This recipe is common in many Bengali households, where the fruit is adored so much, that even its seeds are not wasted. That was also the point of this exhibition - to bring in stories and connections that cultures from across the country have with food," she says.

The exhibition can be viewed on MAP's website.

Tanushree Kulkarni

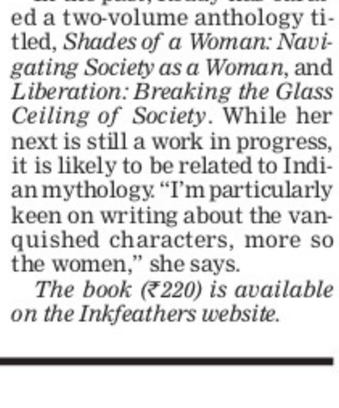
Pride & no prejudice

A new anthology explores personal experiences of queerness through literature

EXPRESS FEATURES

WE may have come a long way in raising awareness about LGBTQIA+ inclusivity but there is still progress to be made. And this Bengalurean's new anthology is a small step in that direction. *Deviant: Chronicles of Pride,* compiled and edited by **Samhitha Reddy,** is an anthology showcasing real-life stories and experiences of the LGBTQIA+ community. An ally herself, Reddy chose to bring out this book as solidarity for the cause. The collection of personal experiences told through prose and poetry features authors from the USA, UK, Australia, India among others. The ethnicities they belong to are varied, such as Bahamian, Chinese, Canadian and UK, Guyanese, Cuban, Haitian and Italian, Cuban, Italian, among others. "I have seen the taboo surrounding the community in my family and I think this journey started with dispelling certain misconceptions from a few family members. Eventually, these efforts culminated with me choosing this theme and publishing this book. Storytelling is an effective tool to spread love," says the 23-year-old, who is currently pursuing an MSc in Human Rights at the London School of Economics and Political Science.

The book, published by Inkfeathers Publishing, explores diverse narratives that go beyond the 'L', 'G', 'B' and 'T'. "While it is now gaining visibility and awareness, not all of us are aware of the 'QIA+' that comes after the 'LGBT'. I felt the need to showcase these identities as well, especially the '+' as the rainbow spectrum has countless identities and I am still learning and trying to be as aware of as possible," says Reddy. It now features stories that explore various facets of queerness, being neuroqueer, and asexuality as well. Works of allies also feature, based on level of awareness, non-usage of stereotypes, etc.



As an ally who was compiling stories of those who belong to the community meant Reddy had to exercise extra care. "I made it a point to ask the authors before making any edits and if they were okay with the manner in which I had categorised their pieces. This was important as I found that some poems could be interpreted to fall under different identity expressions," explains Reddy. "I needed to ensure that the authors' voices were not lost through the editing process. This is because the term 'queer' means different things to different people," she adds.

In the past, Reddy has curated a two-volume anthology titled, *Shades of a Woman: Navigating Society as a Woman*, and *Liberation: Breaking the Glass Ceiling of Society*. While her next is still a work in progress, it is likely to be related to Indian mythology. "I'm particularly keen on writing about the vanquished characters, more so the women," she says.

The book (₹220) is available on the Inkfeathers website.

WEB DESIGNING CLASSES

Enroll your child for an online web designing and programming workshop where they will learn to create websites, blogs, and much more. The workshop will give hands-on training in technical aspects in developing and programming websites. **When:** Ongoing **Register:** bookmyshow.com

DIY GIN KITS

Get your DIY gin infusion kits inspired by the cocktail culture of Singapore. The DIY kits include luxury botanicals and spices, four easy-to-follow infusion recipes, two infusion bottles and one tote bag. Some of the flavours include hibiscus, sichuan, peppercorn, chinese juniper berries, candied strawberries among others. **Details:** insider.in

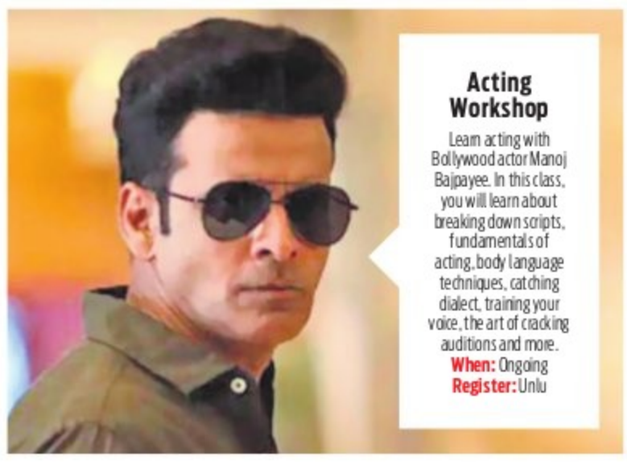
ART ATTACK

Sign up for an art marathon workshop by The Nations Rock Beat spanning 13 days. The workshop is based on art activities like lettering, mandala, coffee painting, resin art, dot mandala, stippling, fluid art, Warli, the basics of portrait sketching and much more. **When:** Until July 21 **Register:** insider.in

BOLLYWOOD DANCE WORKSHOP

Enroll your kids for a fun Bollywood dance workshop in which they will be introduced to basic elements of dance, including alignment, patterns, tempo, levels, rhythm, and spatial awareness. **When:** Ongoing **Details:** bookmyshow.com

CATCH COMEDIAN **JEEVENSHU AHLUWALIA** WITH HIS PUNJABI STYLE JOKES AND PUNCHLINES **WHEN:** JULY 17 ONWARDS **TICKETS:** BOOKMYSHOW.COM



Acting Workshop

Learn acting with Bollywood actor Manoj Bajpayee. In this class, you will learn about breaking down scripts, fundamentals of acting, body language techniques, catching dialect, training your voice, the art of cracking auditions and more. **When:** Ongoing **Register:** Unlu

Screenwriting Bootcamp

Join Satyanshu Singh, a national award-winning filmmaker, writer, and professor of cinema in the second edition of screenwriting boot camp. The crash course will consist of seven sessions and will focus on essential principles of screenwriting. **When:** Ongoing **Register:** insider.in

Mental Health Workshop

Health and wellness expert Ranjan Sahu is conducting an online workshop for mental health and well-being. The workshop will focus on drawing references from scriptures to enhance the integrity of the body, mind, soul and emotions. The workshop is open for 18 years and above. **When:** Ongoing **Register:** bookmyshow.com

Festival Night

Sign up for a festival night where some of your favourite celebrities will share their experiences, stories, and poetry with you. Watch actors such as Divya Dutta, Ravi Dubey, Mohit Malik, Vikram Singh perform at Dear Ishq- a festival of Kisse, Kahaniyaan, and poetry. It is a one-day storytelling and poetry festival to celebrate the love for words. **When:** July 17 **Details:** bookmyshow.com

Poetry Meet-up

This two-hour workshop is curated for poetry lovers who will explore the rich and diverse poetry in India. During the workshop, you can read out your poems, all while having discussions and different writing activities. **When:** July 18 **Details:** insider.in

QUICK FIX

What's cooking

IN YOUR KITCHEN?
We are hungry for recipes with minimum ingredients and maximum flavours. Share your quick-fix with us, along with step-by-step photos, at cityexpresschn@gmail.com.

VAZHAIPOO PORIYAL

INGREDIENTS

- **Banana florets:** 2 cups, cleaned and chopped
- **Turmeric powder:** 1/4 tsp
- **Onion:** 1
- **Grated coconut:** 1/4 cup
- **Salt** to taste ■ **Oil:** 2 tsp
- **Mustard seeds:** 1 tsp
- **Split urad dal:** 3/4 tsp
- **Red chillies:** 3
- **Hing:** 1/4 tsp
- **Curry leaves:** a sprig

METHOD

- Remove the banana flowers and chop. Immerse in buttermilk to prevent discolouration.
- Drain the flower, add 1/4 cup of water, salt, turmeric powder and pressure cook for three whistles.
- Heat oil in a pan, splutter mustard seeds. Add urad dal, red chilli, hing, curry leaves and saute until dal turns golden brown.
- Add onions and saute until they turn transparent.
- Now, squeeze out the water from the cooked banana flower and add. Mix well and saute for 3-4 minutes.
- Add grated coconut, check salt, and serve.

— Sundari Ghandhi, Chennai

FIT BIT

BADDHA DEKASANA

(BOUND AIRPLANE POSE)

In Sanskrit, 'baddha' means bound 'dek' means airplane and 'asana' means pose. It is an advanced standing yoga balance pose. While balancing on one foot, with the forward bend action the students should feel light and at ease, as if they are flying. It helps open the Ajna (Third) and Sahasrara (Crown) Chakras. Both these chakras help increase focus, concentration, memory, will-power besides building energy and helping to stay calm.

STEPS

- Stand in Tadasana (Mountain Pose), feet hip-width apart.
- Feel your feet on the floor. Observe how your weight is distributed.
- Place your hands on your hips. With awareness in the feet, try to shift your weight onto your right leg.
- With your left knee straight, lift left leg up behind you, causing your torso to bend forward over the right leg.
- Extend your arms out to the sides, at a 45-degree angle to your torso with interlaced fingers.
- Lift your left leg towards the sky and shoulders up. Take care not to lift your head. Instead, lengthen the back of your neck so that you are looking at the ground.
- Stay for five or more deep breaths.
- To release the pose, mindfully raise your body to upright as you lower your left foot to the floor.
- Come back to Tadasana. Repeat on the other side.
- You can practise standing next to a wall for support.

BENEFITS

- Helps improve strength in the lower body, tightening the hamstrings and the quadriceps muscles.
- Using the core muscle to balance tones the body.
- Muscles around the knees, the calf muscles and the ankles are engaged making them strong and flexible.
- Biceps and triceps are engaged, improving strength and flexibility.
- Abdominal muscles are active giving better strength to the lower back.
- Spine is strengthened with the flexing of the muscles, also improving posture.
- When the chest is active, it keeps the heart well-supported, an encouraging sign for good blood supply.

LIMITATIONS

- If there is slight wear and tear of muscles and tendons, avoid this.
- Those who have blood pressure and suffer from symptoms related to a migraine should avoid this.
- Those who are flexible but afflicted by a history of sciatica should take care while stretching.

— by N Elumalai, PhD scholar (Yoga Science) at Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research, Chennai

SOUND BOARD

FAT.SO?
In this podcast, hosts Ameya and Pallavi discuss being fat—the pain, the joy, the learning, the dark humor and the silver lining. They talk about body image, societal norms, working hard at self love, failing at weight loss, loneliness, food, love and sex.
- On Apple Podcasts

MARBLES LOST & FOUND
Hosted by Zain Calcuttawala and Avanti Malhotra, 'Marbles Lost & Found' is a podcast to raise awareness about mental health and its importance in our day to day life.
- On Spotify

WHAT'S A MAN? MASCULINITY IN INDIA
Hosted by writer Deepa Narayan, the podcast explores power and love in different aspects of men's lives in homes, schools, and offices.
- On Spotify

THE LITTLE BOOK MAKERS
The Little Book Makers by Karadi Tales offers a glimpse of what goes on behind the scenes of your favourite children's books. Listen to some of the most prominent names in Indian children's publishing including authors, illustrators, animators and more.
- On Spotify

THE FINANCIAL CONFESSIONS
The Financial Confessions is a podcast about how we live and interact with money. Hosted by Chelsea Fagan, this inaugural podcast from The Financial Diet sits down every week with experts, influencers, and everyone in between to talk about money.
- On Apple Podcasts

POPULAR ON YOUTUBE

NANU AVANALLA AVALU
Maadesha had always cherished feminine characteristics and felt like a woman on the inside. Following his heart, he becomes a woman. The movie explores the hardships of a trans woman in today's society.
- Cast: Sanchari Vijay

RANNA
The grandson of a wealthy man is on a mission to reunite his aunt and grandfather. With action-packed scenes and elements of humour and comedy, Ranna is the perfect family entertainer.
- Cast: Sudeep, Prakash Rai, Madhoo

BRUNDAVANA
Krishna, an outsider, enters a village controlled by two rival brothers to stop a wedding. However, he becomes the ray of hope and ends up doing much more.
- Cast: Darshan, Karthika Nair, Sharath Babu

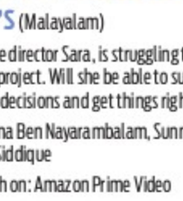
GOOGLY
During their college days, Swathi and Sharath fall in love. As their love story unfolds, Sharath misunderstands and suspects Swathi's actions leading to a messy break-up. Years later, the two bump into each other at a friend's wedding.
- Cast: Yash, Kruthi Karabanda, Ananthnag,

Scan this QR code to find out how your favourite celebs are coping with the lockdown.

WHAT'S ON TED TALKS

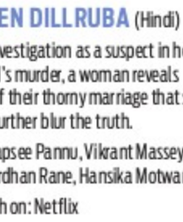
1 A CLEANSE WON'T DETOX YOUR BODY — BUT HERE'S WHAT WILL BY JEN GUNTER
Put down the cayenne-lemon water and step away from the herbal tea. Cleanses and detox products like these don't remove toxins, says Dr Jen Gunter, and some of them may even be hurting your health. Learn how your body rids itself of harmful substances and what you can do to keep this system running smoothly.

2 WHAT SHOULD HUMANS TAKE TO SPACE (AND LEAVE BEHIND)? BY JORGE MANES RUBIO
One day, humans will explore space en masse and live scattered across the solar system on planets like Mars and beyond. TED Fellow Jorge Mañes Rubio wants to rethink what we need to bring on this grand journey — and more importantly, what we should leave behind.



3 THE PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE OF NATIVE AMERICAN FOOD BY SEAN SHERMAN
Chef Sean Sherman serves up an essential history lesson that explains the absence of Native American culinary traditions across the continent, highlighting why revitalizing indigenous education sits at the centre of a better diet and healthier relationship with the planet.

4 YOUR FINGERPRINTS REVEAL MORE THAN YOU THINK BY SIMONA FRANCESE
In this riveting talk, chemist Simona Francese shows how she studies these microscopic traces using mass spectrometry, a technology that analyzes fingerprints in previously impossible detail, and demonstrates how this cutting-edge forensic science can help police catch criminals. (Note: This talk contains descriptions of sexual violence.)



5 HOW TO MAKE HARD CHOICES BY RUTH CHANG
Here's a talk that could literally change your life. Which career should I pursue? Should I break up — or get married?! Where should I live? Big decisions like these can be agonizingly difficult. But that's because we think about them the wrong way, says philosopher Ruth Chang. She offers a powerful new framework for shaping who we truly are.

NOW STREAMING

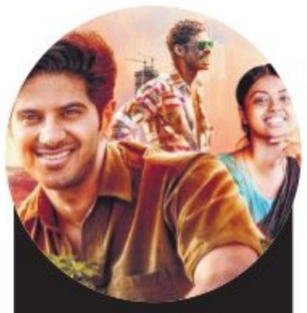
REGIONAL

YUVARATHNAA (Kannada)
RK University fights against the privatisation of educational institutes. But the unfolding of a strange event shuts the college down for an indefinite period of time. This 50-year old institute hopes to restore its name and fame.
Cast: Puneeth Rajkumar, Prakash Raj
- Watch on: Amazon Prime Video

VELVET NAGARAM (Tamil)
A journalist traces the mystery behind the murder of an actress, but she finds herself in a perilous situation after getting cornered by a bunch of goons.
Cast: Varalaxmi Sarathkumar, Ramesh Thilak, Prakash Raghavan, Maalavika Sundar
- Watch on: Amazon Prime Video

MUNDINA NILDANA (Kannada)
Partha, Meera and Ahnana are strangers who seek adventure. Through the discovery of dreams, friendship and love, their intertwined adventures lead to a journey of self-discovery and liberation.
Cast: Praveen Tej, Radhika Narayan, Anaya Kashyap
- Watch on: Netflix

SUNFLOWER (Hindi, series)
A quirky murder mystery based in a housing society called Sunflower. Its simpleton resident Sonu dives headlong into a murder mystery and becomes the chief suspect. What happens next?
Cast: Sunil Grover, Mukul Chadda, Radha Bhatt, Saloni Khanna
- Watch on: Zee5



KAMMATTIPADAM (Malayalam)
Krishnan, who is working in Mumbai, returns to Kammattippaadam after his childhood friend, Ganga, calls for help. There, they find themselves in danger as their criminal past comes back to haunt them.
Cast: Dulqer Salmaan, Vinayakan, Shaun Romy, Shane Nigam, Anjali Nair
- Watch on: Disney+Hotstar

All the streaming apps can be accessed on smartphones and smart TVs with Internet connection.

SARA'S (Malayalam)
Associate director Sara, is struggling to do her first project. Will she be able to succeed with her decisions and get things right?
Cast: Anna Ben Nayarambalam, Sunny Wayne, Siddique
- Watch on: Amazon Prime Video

HASEEN DILLRUBA (Hindi)
Under investigation as a suspect in her husband's murder, a woman reveals details of their thorny marriage that seem to only further blur the truth.
Cast: Taapsee Pannu, Vikrant Massey, Harshvardhan Rane, Hansika Motwani
- Watch on: Netflix

FOREIGN

THE TOMORROW WAR (English)
A man is drafted to fight in a future war where the fate of humanity relies on his ability to confront his past.
Cast: Chris Pratt, Betty Gilpin, Seychelle Gabriel, Yvonne Strahovski
- Watch on: Amazon Prime Video

EINSTEIN AND EDDINGTON (English)
Brilliant physicist Albert Einstein forges a partnership with British scientist Sir Arthur Eddington at great personal risk and changes the course of modern science forever.
Cast: David Tennant, Rebecca Hall, Jim Broadbent, Andy Serkis
- Watch on: Disney+Hotstar

BATTLE OF THE SEXES (English)
In 1973, the world witnesses one of the greatest tennis matches when the renowned player Billie Jean King competes with the former champion Bobby Riggs, while they deal with personal issues.
Cast: Emma Stone, Steve Carrell, Andrea Riseborough, Alan Cumming
- Watch on: Disney+Hotstar

THE SOUL (Taiwanese)
While investigating the death of a businessman, a prosecutor and his wife uncover occult secrets as they face their own life-and-death dilemma.
Cast: Sun Anke, Chang Chen, Janine Chang, Christopher Lee
- Watch on: Netflix

SUBSCRIPTION

Netflix: ₹ 199 per month
SonyLiv: ₹ 299 per month
Prime Video: ₹ 129 per month
Zee5: ₹ 99 per month

Aamir Khan and Kiran Rao's split has stirred up an important conversation - has our attitude and acceptance towards a separation changed?

The deal about DIVORCE

SHRIYA RAJACHANDRA

DIVORCES tend to be associated with intense drama or severed relations. But Aamir Khan and Kiran Rao's recent announcement of parting ways after 15 years of marriage has stirred up a conversation about the stereotypes we associate with a separation. Has our attitude and acceptance towards divorce changed? Meera Ravi, psychotherapist/founder and director of a centre for counselling, Prerana, sheds light on the impact of this celebrity couple's divorce. "It states that it is okay to get divorced. However, one must not get influenced by celebrities and decide in haste. It is better to examine your relationship, have a discussion with a therapist and then take a call," she says.

While urban crowds may be more forthcoming in accepting a split, the case is not the same in rural parts, believes Ravi, who says we are currently in a phase of transition. "As a society, we are meant to go through stages of development. Now, we are experiencing a shift in our culture and belief system. To eliminate the stigma or taboo of divorce will take time," she explains.

Aamir Khan and Kiran Rao

In their statement, the couple said, "In these 15 beautiful years together we have shared a lifetime of experiences, joy and laughter, and our relationship has only grown in trust, respect and love. Now we would like to begin a new chapter in our lives – no longer as husband and wife, but as co-parents and family for each other."

While their separation appears to be mess-free, there's no denying it could still have been a difficult decision. Hamsa Nataraj, HOD of the Department of Psychology at Mount Carmel College, says, "No divorce is easy, it usually is a painful process and a difficult one. They have created an image that isn't messy. Any divorce involves not only the couple, but also the immediate family members, who go through a tough period, and we don't know what goes on behind closed doors." And perhaps awareness too has played a role in greater acceptance. "A broken marriage is better than a bad marriage. So people are more open to moving on from a broken marriage than living in a toxic one," adds Nataraj.

Poornima Prasad, a psychology lecturer, brings up an essential reminder – that a divorce is not for the society to accept. "A divorce is between two people. No one can imagine the stress they must be going through. We don't have the right to accept or reject their decision," she says.

> One must not get influenced by celebrities and decide in haste. It is better to examine your relationship, have a discussion with a therapist and then take a call
> - Meera Ravi, psychotherapist

> Divorce is between two people. No one can imagine the stress they must be going through. We don't have the right to accept or reject the decision - Poornima Prasad, psychology lecturer

Don't use any heat tools or straighteners in the monsoon

Mane care in monsoon

PAIRED WITH PANACHE
Anuja Pandey

(The author is social media influencer @loftyspectrums and a lifestyle coach)

THE pitter patter of rain and cloudy beautiful skies can make anyone jump with joy. While rain brings in happiness, it can stress the hair too. So here are some tips, tricks and expert advice to swim through the muddy pool and keep your hair in good health.

Rain can make the scalp oily, hair dry and frizzy at the ends. So, avoid using excess conditioner and serums for they weigh the mane down. Use conditioners only through the length of the hair. "During monsoon, the spike of humidity in the air tends to make your hair limp, frizzy, and dull while the scalp may get oilier sooner than usual. Rainwater is generally acidic in nature, therefore it becomes necessary to go for a hair care routine that does not involve the use of chemicals. It is imperative that you choose a regime that is suitable for your hair type and moisturises your strands enough so that it does not attract moisture from the air," says Dr Urvi Singh, a derma expert. Here are some more tips:

Say no to heat treatments

The heating tools or straighteners compound hair problems although they look like the go-to solution. Moisture-laden air will make hair wavy again while heating would further dry it up. Instead make some creative hair styles. Also, do not bleach hair in monsoons, it strips off your cuticles and makes hair even more frizzy and dry sucking out all the moisture.

Use oil

Grandma's hair oil application tip still works wonders but it's best to oil not more than once or twice a week. Rain can make your scalp itchy or flaky so mix some neem oil in the coconut oil. You can even ditch coconut oil for the elixirs made of flowers and seeds oil that are lightweight. A last wash with neem leaf water helps with the health of scalp.

Hair masques to the rescue

This helps with frizz. You can mix some oil in the masque to add lustre. Sahil Mehta, founder, St. Botanica says, "It's essential for a brand to consider your specific hair type to achieve your personal hair goals and cater to different hair needs. Shampoos, conditioners or masques must be designed to promote optimal hair health that is sulphate, phthalates, and paraben free."

Snip, snip

It's time to go for that much needed haircut that you have been planning to give your hair a healthy bounce.

CITY READ

Institute conducts Foundation Day lecture series

IIM Bangalore's Centre for Public Policy hosted a third lecture in its Foundation Day lecture series. KK Shailaja, former Minister for Health, Social Justice, and Woman & Child Development, Govt. of Kerala, also spoke on 'Policy Implications of the Pandemic'.

Club appoints new president

The Inner Wheel Club of Bangalore is having a change of guard. Outgoing president Prema Aiyer will hand over charge to Virina Subbaiah in a virtual installation on July 12. The club under the leadership of the new president Virina Subbaiah and secretary Udaya Reddy has plans to work for a cleaner environment, render CBD plastic-free, empower women through skill development, opportunity and entrepreneurship, spread awareness of early detection of women's cancers, and more. The theme for the year is 'Strong women, stronger world'.

Real estate platform adds vaccine finder feature

NoBrokerHood has introduced Vaccine Finder on the app. It aims to facilitate a convenient and swift booking of vaccination slots for residents across 11 cities: Bengaluru, Mumbai, Pune, Chennai, Hyderabad, Delhi, Ahmedabad, Jaipur, Nagpur, Kochi, and Kolkata.

Unlock the character stories and overcome obstacles to move on to more levels in Griftlands

DECKED UP IN CARDS

WHAT'S NEW?

Shank

This was my first Klei game, and I was not expecting to like it as much as I did. A side-scrolling beat-em-up, Shank was just high-octane fun, as was its excellent sequel.

Invisible, Inc.

Turn-based strategy games have always held a special place in my heart, going back to Jagged Alliance 2, and Invisible Inc definitely lived up to those expectations. Sneaky and overall just brilliant, this is definitely one you should try.

Mark of the Ninja

Arguably Klei's greatest hit to date, Mark of the Ninja is just one of the best stealth games out there as well as being one of the best side-scrolling games around. If you have any interest in either of those genres, you need to play this one.

The midyear slump is well and truly upon us, so instead of looking at new releases, let's take a look at some of Klei's older work.

Klei Entertainment has made a name for themselves over the last decade, with a string of great games — the Shank series, Don't Starve, Invisible Inc and Mark of the Ninja. Their latest game, Griftlands, has been getting a lot of buzz lately and it just released out of Early Access, so obviously I had to give it a try.

Griftlands is a deckbuilder, which is one of my favourite boardgame mechanisms but has seen some success when used in the videogame format — Slay the Spire, most notably, but also Roguebook among a few others. Griftlands evolves the concept in a few interesting ways, best of which is that you actually have to manage two decks of cards. You'll use one deck for negotiation, and one for battles. This was immediately fascinating to me, as somebody who usually prefers to talk their way out of trouble in RPGs and the like, and it's wonderfully executed in practice. There's a different rhythm and tempo to the two halves of Griftlands, but they flow wonderfully; and indeed can flow from one to the other seamlessly.

There are three characters included in Griftlands, each with their own story/campaign to play. None of this is very long, although you probably won't beat them on the first try. Each character brings with them a unique twist on the deckbuilding formula — Sal, for example, has a weakness for sharp things, while Rook likes to gamble every chance he gets and Smith is...well, an extremely loose cannon. As far as the story goes, this isn't Red Dead Redemption or anything but is still surprisingly engaging for what it is. Once you've finished a character's story, you'll unlock the next one as well as a chance to run through Brawl mode — a randomly-generated series of challenges. As you level up each character more and more, you'll unlock additional packs of cards and difficulty levels to try. I don't usually like to replay games without any new story or character development in this manner — something like Hades was perfect in that regard — but Griftlands is just so satisfying that Brawl has been very enjoyable thus far, as have the various daily challenges that appear.

As always, Klei has imbued the whole of Griftlands with all-pervading charm. From the lovely design to the excellent music to the nonsensical 'language' everybody speaks, it is simply wonderful from start to finish.

Little touches such as the flavour text on the cards or the word balloons that appear during a negotiation are so incidental and unnecessary, but have clearly had so much effort put into them. This is quite clearly a labour of love.

I did mention earlier that deckbuilding is one of my favourite genres of boardgame, and so it's hardly surprising that I love Griftlands. What was surprising to me is just how good it is on a mechanical level — how it manages to feel fresh with every character and card pack, and constantly provides new ways of chaining effects together to create wild new possibilities. It's a delightful sandbox, and one I'm going to enjoy playing around in for a long time to come.

ARE YOU GAME?
Anusha Ganapathi

@quaffle_waffle

(This economics graduate spends her leisure time preparing for the zombie apocalypse)

Get kraken', let's hunt some treasure

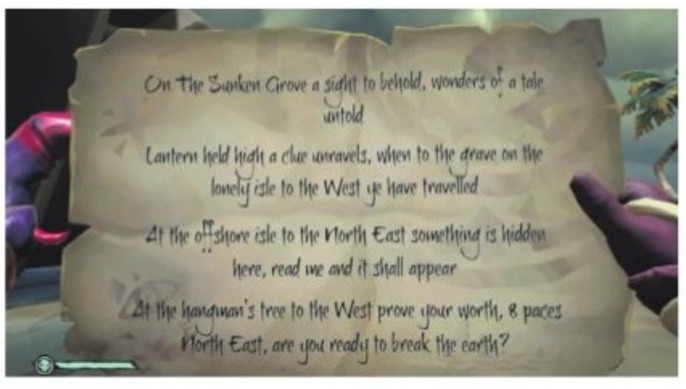
It is apt that the first game I purchased on the ₹50 Xbox Game Pass was "Sea of Thieves", because this game is a steal! While the game is not new, this pirate adventure constantly adds improvements and new lore to its gameplay. The most recent update was a huge one — announced during E3. Captain Jack Sparrow made a swashbuckling entry to this game last week.

Sea of Thieves is an online, open-world adventuring game. It is playable on the Xbox and PC — and has cross-play — which means that in co-operative mode (1-4 players), a PC user can play with someone on the Xbox! This is ideal because Sea of Thieves is not best played alone. A pirate captain needs her first mate and an active crew to sail the high seas, and beat dreadful sea monsters to uncover bountiful treasure.

The game is like a full course meal, it has something for every kind of gamer. For starters, you have the puzzle element, through clue solving. Across Tall Tale and Voyage options, blind sailing across the seas is not an option. Quest maps and lore books provide a direction towards treasure. The clues require some deliberation, as the language is not straightforward. Next, there's an element of quiet sea navigation. As the size of the ship and number of players increase, so does the complexity of ship operation. The high seas are terrifying and solitary. To guide you through it is an abstract map and your compass. Coordination between the wheel, the anchor, and the sails makes travelling a process.

Of course, there's combat — sea monsters and skeletons spawn aplenty, providing a nice challenge before you get to the treasure. There are also other pirates (in the same online server instance), who could fight with you. The game has "proximity chat", which means that you can directionally hear players next to you, shouting out. This is fun especially during the PvP combat sequences. Blasting canons, boarding enemy ships, sword fights, and gun battles are tough, but satisfying. The punishment for failing combat isn't too harsh — so the reduced anxiety makes it more enjoyable.

The game pushes you to progress and continue playing for chances of better rewards. For example, at each outpost, there are options to become emissaries of different traders. It's a game that can easily keep you occupied for several hours at a single stretch, without realising it. It taught me the importance of a well-rounded gaming experience; while the graphics are fairly basic, it did not deter me from continuing to play the game. A full 5/5 for this Arr-mazing game. Off with ye, let's get kraken, to hunt some gold.


On The Sunken Grove a sight to behold, wonders of a tale untold
Lantern held high a clue unravels, when to the grave on the lonely isle to the West ye have travelled
At the offshore isle to the North East something is hidden here, read me and it shall appear
At the hangman's tree to the West prove your worth, 8 paces North East, are you ready to break the earth?

'I will certainly enjoy acting in Rishab Shetty's directorial'

Jayanna Films is teaming up for the fifth time with Shivarajkumar

A SHARADHAA

Shivarajkumar and Rishab Shetty are set to collaborate for a project to be made under Jayanna Films. An informal announcement was made by the production house on Saturday and this has created a lot of buzz amongst the fans of Century Star, who are waiting to watch this combination on the silver screen.

Producers Jayanna and Bogendra are teaming up for the fifth time with Shivarajkumar. Shivanna confirming his association with Rishab Shetty told us that the moment producer Jayanna told that Rishab has a story for him, he called over the director for discussion. "Rishab had two stories for me, and both were good. However, I have chosen a simple, light-hearted subject with beautiful emotions to be told. I will certainly enjoy acting in Rishab Shetty's direction. He has brought in a good flavour in his story. Moreover, being an actor too, he had a beautiful way of narrating the story with his expressions and Mangaluru accent, which was amazing," says Shivanna.

Rishab Shetty

Jayanna and Bogendra

Rishab, from his end, is equally excited to associate with Shivarajkumar. "I recently met Shivanna, and pitched a couple of stories, and he has liked one. This will be a unique subject for Shivanna, and I am looking forward to directing the Century Star and associate with Jayanna Films," says Rishab, adding,"The project will go on floors next year."

No signs of slowing down

Shivarajkumar

CE FEATURES

Age is just a number for Century Star Shivarajkumar. After a break owing to the pandemic, he has now resumed work in full flow. He has been listening to various scripts now and has confirmed a few projects too.

While Shivanna is currently looking forward to the release of *Bhajarangi 2,* he has resumed shooting for his 123rd film, the title of which will be unveiled by Puneeth Rajkumar today, on the occasion of his birthday.

The actor's 124th will be helmed by Telugu director Ram Dhulipudi, and 125th will be the Harsha directorial. This apart the actor has given the green signal to a few other films.

While he has confirmed his project with Nanda Kishore, he has also given the nod to veteran director S Narayan, H Lohith, and a new director. He will also be working with Rishab Shetty.

> I am not the kind of actor who only wants to meet star directors. I welcome any filmmakers who have good stuff - be it a newcomer or a known director
> Shivarajkumar, actor

Ahead of his birthday, Shivanna speaks to *CE,* when he humbly mentions that he is not able to analyse the kind of love he is continuously been showered by various filmmakers, who want to work with him. "I think one reason might be that I am approachable to them. I am not the kind of actor who only wants to meet star directors. I welcome any filmmakers who have good stuff - be it a newcomer or a known director. That way, my doors are open for creative people. Moreover, I respect every director's work irrespective of whether I work in their project or not. I take time to read every script that comes by, and will not disappoint them," says Shivanna, who reveals to us that he managed to read at least 15 to 20 scripts during the second lockdown. Shivaanna made a special mention of *Bhajarangi 2,* for which he has recently completed dubbing. "I was so excited to watch the film at the recording studio that I couldn't stop dialing director Harsha's number and I could not stop appreciating his work. I am not saying this because it is my project, but the way Harsha has made the film, and every actor involved have done a fantastic job. The newcomers in the film have showcased their talent, and I was happy with the outcome," says Shivanna, adding, "Though *Bhajarangi 2* will take time to release in theatres, owing to Covid, people won't be disappointed whenever it hits the screens," he says.

Kriti Sanon-starrer *Mimi* to release on Netflix on this date

Kriti Sanon

CE FEATURES

Mimi, starring Kriti Sanon and Pankaj Tripathi, will release on Netflix on July 30. The film is a family entertainer centred on surrogacy. It is directed by Laxman Utekar and produced by Dinesh Vijan and Jio Studios.

The trailer of *Mimi* will be out on July 13. Besides Kriti and Pankaj, the film also stars Sai Tamhankar. It will stream on Jio Cinema and Netflix from July 30.

Laxman Utekar has worked as a cinematographer on films like *English Vinglish, Dear Zindagi* and *Hindi Medium*. He made his Hindi directorial debut with *Luka Chuppi* (2019), starring Kriti and Kartik Aaryan.

Randeep Hooda resumes shooting for *Inspector Avinash*

Randeep Hooda

CE FEATURES

Randeep Hooda on Saturday resumed shooting for his debut web series, *Inspector Avinash*. Directed by Neeraj Pathak, the show is a crime thriller produced by Jio Studios. It also stars Mahesh Manjrekar, Urvashi Rautela, Rajneesh Duggal, Freddy Daruwala, Govind Namdev, and others.

Inspector Avinash had gone on floors in January. The shooting was subsequently halted due to the second wave of the coronavirus pandemic.

Randeep's last appearance was in Radhe, where he played the main antagonist.

Hrithik Roshan and Saif Ali Khan

Hrithik Roshan and Saif Ali Khan to star in Hindi remake of *Vikram Vedha*

CE FEATURES

Hrithik Roshan and Saif Ali Khan will star in the Hindi remake of *Vikram Vedha*, trade analyst Taran Adarsh revealed on Saturday.

Released in 2017, the hit Tamil action-thriller starred R Madhavan and Vijay Sethupathi. A Hindi remake of the film has been in the offing for a while now. It will be helmed by Pushkar-Gayathri, the director duo of the original film.

Taran Adarsh tweeted, "HRITHIK - SAIF IN '*VIKRAM VEDHA*' REMAKE... #HrithikRoshan and #SaifAliKhan will star in the #Hindi remake of #Tamil film #VikramVedha... Pushkar-Gayathri - the director duo of the original film - will direct the #Hindi version too... 30 Sept 2022 release."

Inspired by the folktale Baital Pachisi, Vikram Vedha followed a cop, played by R Madhavan, on the hunt of a gangster, played by Vijay Sethupathi. After he voluntarily surrenders himself, Sethupathi's Vedha tells three stories to the cop, altering his perceptions of good and evil.

Hrithik and Saif were co-stars in the 2002 drama Na Tum Jaano Na Hum. Hrithik has never played a police officer before, though Saif has played both a cop and a gangster. Their exact roles in the remake are yet to be revealed.

~ RAKSHIT SHETTY IN AND AS ~

Richard Anthony

Rakshit Shetty, in his interview with *CE*, shares his excitement about collaborating with Hombale Films

A SHARADHAA

Rakshit Shetty is teaming up with Hombale Films for its tenth project. The actor is donning multiple hats for the story. Apart from writing the story, Rakshit is set to direct and act as the lead in the upcoming project titled *Richard Anthony.*

Now, an official announcement of the film along with the teaser has been unveiled. The production house shared it on various social media platforms and wrote, "Will his dream and destiny meet each other? Catch the glimpse of our next Richard Anthony - Lord of the sea, (sic)."

The intriguing teaser features actor Achyuth Kumar, who fears the return of Richard Anthony before the latter's grave.

Producer Vijay Kiragandur, of Hombale Films, who has bankrolled films like *KGF* duology, *Yuvarathnaa,* and *Salaar*, is excited to team up with Rakshit Shetty. He says, "Rakshit Shetty is cinema personified; good cinema runs in his blood. His creative brilliance and dedication are well known among cinema lovers. Hombale Films are pleased to collaborate with him for our 10th film, which will be a refreshing story with layers of mystery." The film is expected to go on floors in January 2022.

Meanwhile, Rakshit Shetty talking to *CE* shares his enthusiasm for getting back to directing a film. According to him, *Richard Anthony* is the second coming of *Ulidavaru Kandanthe* in many ways yet starkly different from it. "The desire to make this film has been there for quite some time. However, when I wrote *Ulidavaru Kandanthe,* I didn't have any idea of making a sequel or prequel. Having said that, I wanted to take forward the story of Richie because of his popularity. Secondly, when I started exploring the story, I felt that the universe already had a plan," says Rakshit Shetty, adding, "I knew I had left many things in *Ulidavaru Kandanthe* ambiguous. A few of those unanswered elements have waited for me to explore. I can connect with it now."

Vijay Kiragandur

Rakshit Shetty

This is Rakshit's first collaboration with Hombale Films. According to the actor-director, the best part of working with this production house is that a filmmaker doesn't have to worry about anything else other than his craft. The rest will be taken care of, he says.

"I have had the complete liberty as a director whenever I made films under my own production house. Once I get the budget ready, my friends took care of the projects. *Kirik Party* was one such project, which I enjoyed the most. Equally, as an actor, I enjoyed working in *Simple Agi Ondh Love Story*. One, it was Suni's direction, and the whole crew made up for one good team. Probably, *Richard Anthony* will be my third film, where I will creatively explore myself as a director and actor. At the same time, it becomes a responsibility to not overspend. Though they won't stop you, from my end, I should not go out of my way," he says.

The production house is known for making pan-Indian films, and when asked if *Richard Anthony* will follow suit, he says, "A lot of things in the film are rooted to the soil of Udupi and Mangaluru. However, I also plan to take this film to other regions and authentically tell it in their language. The producer and I have discussed such possibilities. We have concluded that we will first make the film and then decide how to go about such plans. Rakshit, who last helmed *Ulidavaru Kandanthe,* is excited to get back to direction, "When I direct, I don't worry much about facing the camera. Since I have written the story, I would have thoroughly understood the subject. I focus more on the direction. Also, I have great support from the technical team, which has music director Ajaneesh Loknath and DOP Karm Chawla," says Rakshit Shetty. The actor is planning to start the film as soon as he completes shooting for Hemanth M Rao's *Sapta Sagaradaache Ello.*

Varun Dhawan and Kriti Sanon

Varun Dhawan and Kriti Sanon wrap up the shoot of *Bhediya*

CE FEATURES

Amar Kaushik's horror-comedy film *Bhediya,* starring Varun Dhawan, Kriti Sanon, Abhishek Banerjee, and Deepak Dobriyal, has wrapped its shoot.

The film has been completely shot in the pandemic and completed in record time, the makers said.

Bhediya was filmed in Arunachal Pradesh with the second schedule being completed in Mumbai with all safety precautions. The makers released a motion poster today announcing the film's wrap.

Directed by Amar Kaushik, Bhediya will release in cinemas on April 14, 2022. The film is written by National Award-winner Niren Bhatt. It is produced by Dinesh Vijan and Jio Studios.